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The Federal Meat-Inspection System

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IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE that the federal government maintains, through the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture, a system of meat inspection, but comparatively few persons are familiar with its scope or the manner in which it protects public health. The meat-inspection service, through its detailed examination of millions of animals, has been able also to obtain many facts useful to producers regarding the condition of live stock at the time of slaughter.

More Than Seventy Million Animals Inspected Last Year

The extent of the service is definitely shown by the number of cattle, calves, sheep, goats, and swine slaughtered under federal inspection. For a number of years the totals have approached 60,000,000 annually, or nearly two-thirds of all such animals slaughtered for food in the United States in the same periods. Figures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919, show a remarkable increase over previous years. Altogether more than 70,000,000 animals were slaughtered under federal inspection. The inspection included, in round numbers: cattle, 11,241,000; calves, 3,674,000; sheep, 11,268,000; goats, 125,000; and

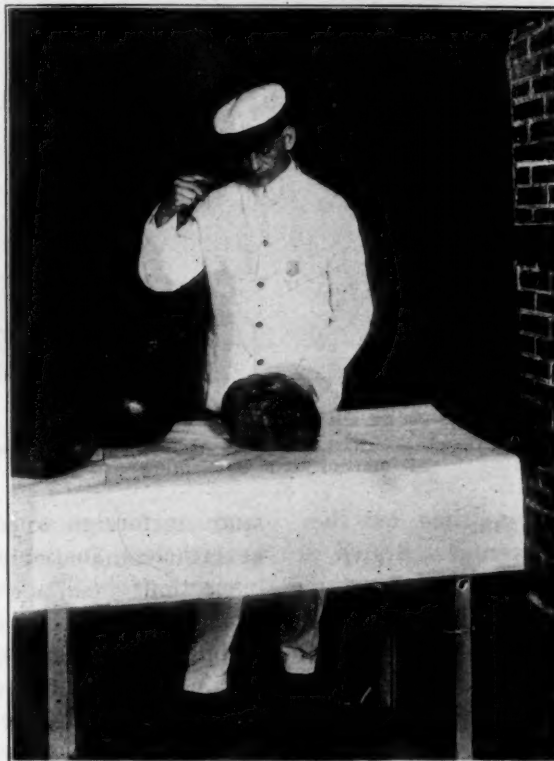
swine, 44,398,000. The greatest increase of any class was in swine, the number inspected being nearly 9,000,000 more than the previous year. The statement that so many animals were inspected means that all were

examined while alive, and that the organs and different parts of each animal were inspected at the time of slaughter to determine their fitness for food.

However, this double inspection, complete and important as it is, is but the first of several steps in the federal system. The subsequent handling—processing, preparation, storage, and labeling—are given supervision, and the meats are re-inspected as often as may be necessary. The federal system has been aptly described as extending "from the hoof to the can," or "from the live-stock pen to the finished meat or product in the labeled package ready for shipment to the consumer."

Wide Range in Inspectors' Duties

The scope and purposes of federal meat inspection are to place the federal mark of approval upon all meats and products which competent examination shows to be sound, healthful, and fit for food, and to condemn and destroy those which are found



PRODUCTS INSPECTION
Testing Hams by Means of Steel Trier

to be dangerous, unsound, or otherwise unfit for such use.

The inspection also includes supervision of the establishments with respect to sanitation, construction, and suitable methods of handling all meats and their products. Furthermore, the consumer of meats is protected against the use of harmful dyes and chemicals, and against false or misleading names or statements on labels. In short, the meat-inspection service seeks to protect the public health and the rights of consumers, and to do this without infringing upon the just rights of the producer, and without waste of the nation's meat-food supply.

Federal meat inspection is being maintained at 825 establishments in 230 cities. These figures undergo

Meat Inspection Act is based on the commerce clause of the Constitution, which restricts the application of federal inspection to establishments engaged in interstate or foreign trade, and to meats and products which are to be sold or shipped as articles of interstate or foreign commerce. The inspection cannot be extended to those establishments which confine their sales and shipments to the state in which located. However, when federal inspection is inaugurated at an establishment, it is maintained there in respect to the whole establishment, and applies to all animals slaughtered and to all products prepared therein. This is necessary to the completeness of the inspection and to a proper enforcement of the regulations. The result is that very great amounts of meats not shipped or sold in either inter-



ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION

Animals Showing Symptoms of Disease Are Marked "U. S. Suspect." If Certain Diseases Are Present, They Are Marked "U. S. Condemned"

some increase or decrease from time to time, but they represent a reasonably permanent average. Stated in round numbers, about 2,600 inspectors are regularly employed. Of this number about 800 are graduate veterinarians; the remainder are lay inspectors, who, through experience and training, acquire the technical knowledge and skill necessary to a proper performance of their duties. The appointing of inspectors is controlled by, and is in accordance with the requirements of, the United States Civil Service Commission.

Sometimes the question is asked why federal meat inspection is not made to cover every slaughter-house and meat-preparing plant in the United States, instead of a limited number. The answer is that the Federal

state or foreign commerce, but consumed locally, are, nevertheless, inspected and bear the marks of federal inspection.

The inspection has been extended as far as contemplated and permitted by the law, and as far as has been possible with the funds provided by Congress for its maintenance. If the entire meat-food supply of the country is to be properly inspected, it will devolve upon the several states or municipalities to establish and maintain an adequate inspection to cover the field to which federal inspection cannot be extended. Many of our cities do maintain such an inspection.

The great need of an efficient meat inspection is shown by the number of animals and the quantities of

meats and products which are condemned yearly on account of disease, unsoundness, or other condition of unfitness, and thereby excluded from the food supply. The complete figures for all classes of animals and the various reasons for condemnation involve considerable detail. However, a general statement regarding them should serve the present purpose. For instance, on the post-mortem inspection alone there was condemned in the fiscal year 1918 a total of 206,265 cattle, sheep, swine, and goats; while organs and parts of carcasses condemned on account of localized disease run into the hundreds of thousands.

Tuberculosis and Cholera Cause Most Condemnations

Tuberculosis in cattle, and tuberculosis and cholera

potentially good food. Neither of these deductions is in accord with the facts. Disease is less prevalent in the live stock of the United States than in the various European countries. As regards the inspection, it must be maintained, in the interest of the public health, with a due measure of strictness. Necessarily this entails loss, but such loss cannot properly be called waste. Moreover, the basic rules and regulations by which condemnations on the post-mortem inspection are determined were prepared with great care by competent officials, and then were submitted to an independent committee, composed of scientists and hygienists of the highest reputation, for consideration, and received that committee's approval.



POST-MORTEM INSPECTION OF CATTLE

The Carcass, and Various Organs and Parts, of Each Animal Are Carefully Inspected at Time of Slaughter

in swine, were responsible for more condemnations than all other diseases and causes combined. In addition to the condemnations on the post-mortem inspection, it was necessary to condemn in that year a total of more than 17,000,000 pounds of meats and products on account of their having become tainted, rancid, unclean, or otherwise unwholesome in the course of shipment, preparation, or storage. The condemnations aggregate an enormous amount of material. Fortunately, however, this represents but a relatively small part of the total of animals and meats inspected. By some the condemnations might be regarded as evidence that disease prevails to an unusual degree in American live stock, or that, on account of undue strictness, the inspection is wasteful of

Inspection Before Slaughter

The first examination is the ante-mortem inspection, or inspection of the animals before slaughter. They are scrutinized while at rest in the pens, or as they are moved from the scales. If the condition of an animal causes the inspector to suspect that it is diseased or affected by any condition which will cause its condemnation in whole or in part on the post-mortem inspection, the animal is set apart and marked "U. S. Suspect" by means of a serially numbered metal tag affixed to the ear. Such animals are held for separate slaughter and for an especially careful post-mortem examination.

The diseases and conditions for which animals are most frequently so tagged are cholera, actinomycosis,

emaciation, advanced pregnancy, and severe or excessive injuries. Animals which plainly show symptoms of rabies, tetanus, milk fever, railroad sickness, and hogs which manifestly are sick with cholera, are condemned and their carcasses destroyed without admission to the slaughter-room. Such animals are marked by the inspector with a numbered metal tag bearing the legend "U. S. Condemned."

Post-Mortem Inspection Includes Examination of Organs

The post-mortem or slaughter inspection is the most important of the several inspection procedures, because it affords greater opportunity to discover the existence of most diseases. This calls for careful examination throughout. Accordingly, the inspectors first examine those glands, organs, or parts in which disease most

marked "U. S. Inspected and Passed," with the official number of the establishment at which it was slaughtered. The brand used for thus marking the carcasses is circular, with the above legend in abbreviated form, and is stamped with a purple ink on the principal parts of the carcass. The ink is absolutely harmless.

All Condemned Meat Destroyed in Government-Sealed Tanks

If an animal is affected with disease or other objectionable condition, whether it be slight, extensive, local, or general, the inspector marks it with a serially numbered "U. S. Retained" tag. Carcasses and parts so marked are officially in the custody of the inspector, and are transferred to what is designated the final inspection-room or place, where all the facilities necessary for



SAUSAGE DEPARTMENT SCENE

All Materials Used and All Operations in the Preparation of Products Are Supervised to Insure Cleanliness and Wholesomeness

frequently occurs. For instance, in both hogs and cattle certain of the lymph glands of the neck usually are the first to show evidence of tuberculosis; therefore, these glands in every animal are cut and carefully viewed.

The cheek and heart muscles of cattle are the seats where the beef measles, which produces tapeworm in man, first appears. Accordingly, these parts are sliced in every instance, so that no cow or steer affected with measles shall escape. These particular procedures are cited simply to indicate the pains taken to make the post-mortem inspection a thorough one. All the organs, as well as the carcass, are included in this examination. If, on the completion of this inspection, the meat is found to be sound and fit for food, the carcass is passed and

the thorough examination of such carcasses are provided. If the final inspection shows the meat to be unfit for food, the carcasses and parts are condemned and plainly marked "U. S. Condemned" by means of a large brand. All condemned meats and products remain in the custody of the inspectors, and are destroyed, under bureau supervision, by conversion into fertilizer and grease in government-sealed rendering tanks. If the condition for which the carcass is condemned is found to be local, the affected parts are condemned and the remainder of the carcass is passed.

Labels Must Be Approved

The products inspection, as it is termed, covers the inspection and reinspection of meats and products from

the time of slaughter through the succeeding processes of preparation and storage, including supervision of all operations to insure the sanitary handling of all edible materials. This supervision also controls the addition of spices, curing agents, and other ingredients to products. None but those permitted under the regulations may be added. In order to see that the regulations are strictly observed, the bureau collects samples for laboratory examination without notification to the establishment. The products inspection also includes supervision of the branding and labeling of meats and products. The use of labels bearing false or misleading names or statements is prohibited; in fact, only those labels which have first been submitted to the bureau and approved by it may be used. The contents of the package must conform to the statements on the label.

The Meat Inspection Act confers upon the Secretary of Agriculture authority to prescribe and enforce sanitary regulations at all establishments at which inspection is maintained. The more important of these requirements are adequate and proper toilet, lavatory, and dressing-room accommodations, and also smooth and impervious surfaces for operating-rooms and equipment. Other requirements include good light, adequate ventilation, modern plumbing, efficient drainage, complete separation of rooms in which edible products are prepared from those in which inedible materials are handled, and pure water, with ample facilities for its distribution. The purpose of such requirements is to insure strict cleanliness in the preparation and handling of meats and meat-food products, and for the maintenance of clean and wholesome conditions in and about the establishment. When new plants are to be erected, or old ones remodeled, it is aimed to have the best standards followed. Accordingly, the plans and specifications for building must be submitted to the bureau for approval.

Important Factor in Foreign Trade

While federal meat inspection is primarily a service in hygiene and sanitation, it occupies, nevertheless, an important position in our trade economics, and is the agency through which a very important part of our export commerce has been maintained. Without its certificate of inspection the export trade in meats and meat-food products would be seriously impaired. The amount of beef, pork, and mutton certified for export in the fiscal year 1918 exceeded a total of 2,500,000,000 pounds, while the certifications for the fiscal year 1919 approximate 3,400,000,000 pounds. The figures do not include the shipments made to the American expeditionary forces in France. Exports were tremendously stimulated by the war. However, under normal conditions the United States imports as well as exports great quantities of meats. All the imported meats are subjected to an adequate inspection under the federal system.

An economic importance possessed by federal meat inspection, but to which only casual reference can be

made at this time, is the relation of its post-mortem records to the locating of territories in which food-animal diseases prevail to an unusual extent, and the eradication of which is to be attempted.

A further point in regard to the economic value of federal meat inspection is the moderate cost at which it is maintained. The first aim is to make the service efficiently fulfil the purpose for which it is intended; the second, to administer it with due regard to economy. In computing unit cost of maintenance, the federal system has the advantage of a very large volume of operations, and it will be gratifying to the taxpayer to learn that, largely owing to this advantage, the service is maintained at a cost of less than six cents for each animal inspected. This sum covers the expense of all the inspections, from that of the live animal to the final examination of the finished products.

Inspection of Horse Meat Authorized

A new activity of the federal meat-inspection service recently authorized by Congress is the inspection of horse meat and horse-meat products. There are several reasons for extending meat inspection to include horses. Many foreign countries—especially those of Europe where horse meat is being used for human consumption—will not import it from the United States unless it has been federally inspected. On our western ranges there are thousands of small horses of little value except for their meat, hides, and by-products. Government inspection of horse meat is expected to encourage the movement to market of such stock, with resulting benefit to the range and to cattle and sheep production in those regions. In addition, there is a considerable demand for horse meat in several cities of the United States. By including the slaughter of horses for food under federal inspection, the public has ample assurance that the meat is clean, wholesome, and derived from healthy animals. The regulations provide for the accurate labeling of horse meat and its products.

Municipal and State Meat Inspection

The ratio of federally inspected slaughter of meat animals to total slaughter shows that a considerable proportion of animals are killed and consumed in the states where they are raised. About 77 per cent of sheep slaughtered are federally inspected, 75 per cent of cattle, 59 per cent of swine, 44 per cent of calves, and 35 per cent of goats. These figures vary somewhat from year to year.

Some of the remaining meat is subject to state inspection, some to municipal inspection, and, of course, much of it receives no inspection whatever. Until recently there has been little information on the extent of municipal and state inspection. In the last few months, however, through special inquiry, reports have been obtained on the local meat inspection of several hundred cities having populations of 5,000 or more. These reports, in connection with many letters from mayors, health officers, and other officials, show that only about one-

third of the cities have any definite system of meat inspection. I mention this fact so the reader may see that, even with the progress already made, there still exists a fruitful field for additional effort. Those efforts, I may add, are important and necessary as a fitting supplement to the federal meat inspection. Al-

though much of the needed work is outside of the meat-inspection activities of the Bureau of Animal Industry, we feel that the bureau nevertheless can be of considerable service. Its experience, statistical information, and other data are available to persons seeking to improve local meat-food supplies.

Action of Market Committee on Packer Legislation

AT A RECENT MEETING held in San Francisco, the Market Committee of the American National Live Stock Association carefully considered the pending meat-packing legislation and forwarded the following communications to Washington:

TO THE PRESIDENT

DENVER, COLO., August 27, 1919.

The President,

The White House,

Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

Having previously offered our services to assist you in your efforts to bring about a reduction in the cost of living, we herewith present certain concrete suggestions which we trust may prove of value.

As members of the Market Committee of the American National Live Stock Association, and on behalf of a large portion of the organized live-stock producers of the country, we beg to assure you of our desire to assist in the nation-wide movement to check waste, speculation, and profiteering, and thereby reduce the cost of living. All information which the Market Committee has gathered since its organization in January, 1916, for the purpose of improving marketing conditions, is at your disposal.

We recognize that the steadily mounting cost of living is a most serious menace to our national welfare, and largely the cause of industrial discontent. As the prices of meat and meat products constitute a large percentage of this living cost, we offer for your consideration the following definite suggestions for improvement:

First—Prompt action by Congress providing for a constructive plan for just and thoroughgoing federal control of the packing industry, which shall maintain the efficiency of this greatest of our national industries, but shall prevent in future such misuse of the enormous, and rapidly growing, economic and concentrated financial power of the group of five great packers as the investigations of the Federal Trade Commission show to have occurred in the past. That this small group have today practically a monopoly of the nation's meat supply, and are rapidly extending their control to other food products, has now been proved beyond question. We advocate neither revolutionary nor destructive policies, but call for the prompt enactment by Congress of such reasonable, effective, and definite legislation as shall positively prevent manipulation, hoarding, or speculation in meat and other essential food products; shall provide for the regulation and control, by license, of the packers, under the administration of the Secretary of Agriculture—an impartial agency assuring fair treatment to producer, packer, and consumer alike; shall prevent packers' control of all food products; shall provide for marketing places to be treated as public utilities, free from packer control, and for the use of all shippers and purchasers of live stock on equal terms;

shall assure the distribution to the consumer of the products of live stock, on an economical and competitive basis, free from the special privileges now enjoyed by the packers through the uncontrolled use of their refrigerator cars; shall permit the establishment of local agencies wherever desirable, open to all on equal terms, for slaughtering, storing, and distributing live-stock products; shall prevent the use of the stock-yard press to mislead public opinion; and, by substituting just federal control for entrenched monopoly, shall restore confidence to both consumer and producer. We believe the foregoing principles are incorporated in the Kendrick and Kenyon bills now under consideration by Congress.

Second—We urge the prompt completion by the United States Department of Agriculture of a national survey covering the cost of meat production, with the establishment, through the co-operation of the Federal Farm Bureau units, of methods to eliminate any wastes which may be found to exist. In advocating definite reforms in the manufacturing and distributing end of the meat industry, we are prepared to use our utmost efforts to put into operation, promptly and cheerfully, any improved and practical methods in meat production, from the date of the birth of the calf to the time of sale for slaughter, which may be suggested by the United States Department of Agriculture, as a result of the completion of the national survey proposed.

Third—We strongly advocate the early enactment by Congress of legislation which shall place the vast area of uncontrolled public grazing lands (still aggregating over two hundred million acres) under an efficient system of federal control, similar to that existing on the grazing lands within the national forests, thus substituting intelligent use for the present wasteful misuse, and greatly increasing the annual meat production upon these great national pastures, commonly known as the public range. The bill now before Congress, recently introduced by Senator King, of Utah, and generally indorsed by the live-stock men of the West, would, we believe, if enacted, put into effect the foregoing principles.

Immediate action along the above lines will, in our judgment, prove of unquestioned national benefit; and, in aiding to put such policies into successful operation, the live-stock producers will prove by their actions their willingness to serve the nation in this critical reconstructive period.

In view of the importance of our position being made public at this time, we assume our giving publicity, through the press, to this letter will be agreeable to you.

Yours respectfully,

H. A. JASTRO, *Chairman*;

EDWARD L. BURKE, *Vice-Chairman*;

DWIGHT B. HEARD,

C. M. O'DONEL,

I. T. PRYOR,

CHARLES D. CAREY,

MARKET COMMITTEE, AMERICAN NATIONAL
LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION.

TO SENATOR GRONNA

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., August 23, 1919.

Hon. Asle J. Gronna,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. SENATOR:

The American National Live Stock Association has delegated to its Market Committee authority to act in connection with legislation affecting the live-stock industry.

The association has long realized the impossibility of proper conduct of the live-stock business when subject to the entrenched monopoly of the great packer combination, and has consistently fought for remedial federal legislation. In the Kendrick and Kenyon bills now before Congress we recognize and indorse the general plan for thoroughgoing federal control of the packing business, which, while maintaining efficiency in this great national industry, shall in the future prevent the abuses growing out of world-wide concentrated power, preying alike upon producer and consumer; wasteful in many of its methods; paying and charging what it sees fit, and ever advancing in its control of foodstuffs.

We believe that the licensing system properly places power and responsibility for just and rational treatment in an impartial agency of the government, the Department of Agriculture; with the sworn duty to exercise that power for the public welfare.

We believe that in the Kendrick and Kenyon bills now before you there rests the means of carrying out reasonable recommendations based on findings of fact, and we find in the proposed legislation no menace to the legitimate performance, with reasonable profit, of the duties, public in their nature, which are performed by the packers.

We indorse as essential the policy of divorcing the packers from control of the stock-yards, which should be public market places, treated as public utilities, and open, under equal and reasonable conditions, to all. We indorse control, in the public interest, of the commission men, and market-news and stock-yard papers. We believe that private refrigerator cars should be rated as common carriers. We find in the proposed penalties for violation of law or regulation nothing oppressive, but effective means for the exercise of necessary control; and we thoroughly approve the establishment, as suggested in the Kenyon bill, of foodstuff warehouses, destined to furnish new and economical channels of communication between producer and consumer.

We realize the essential bond uniting our interests with those of the consumer, and have at all times recognized the need of furnishing to the public all detailed information concerning the producing processes of the live-stock and meat business. We have nothing to conceal, and we demand that the manufacturing and distributing factors shall be equally open to public knowledge.

We are aware of the desperate efforts being made by the packers to maintain their unconscionable position. We have noted their lavish expenditure in advertising that has dealt in evasion, misrepresentation, and half-truths, and we ask for legislative action that will publish, and continue to make public to the country, the details of the meat business, upon which the life of the country so generally depends.

Speaking for an immense body of producers, we emphatically repudiate recent unfair statements by those weak-kneed and improperly influenced commission men who, although our paid agents, have thoroughly misstated both the character of the proposed legislation and the attitude of the great body of live-stock producers regarding it. The attitude of the stock-yard press has generally been equally dishonest, and manifestly inspired.

We deplore the recent action of those live-stock producers who have passed resolutions condemning certain features of the proposed bill, instead of indorsing the vital principles and aiding in clearing the legislation of that which they consider objectionable by their testimony and recommendations.

We have reason to believe that, just as in hearings and investigations conducted in the past, in the present contest between this giant monopoly and the public, witnesses are in some cases being coerced, and in other cases their expenses are being paid to offer testimony in favor of the packers. This procedure we denounce as an intolerable offense, made necessary only by an unrighteous cause. The issue is clearly one of economic liberty. The prices of meat and meat products form a large proportion of the present high cost of living, and until the entrenched monopoly which now dominates these fundamental food supplies is rigidly controlled by the strong arm of the federal government, we see but little hope for either consumer or producer.

If in any way the members of this committee can be of service to you in your consideration of this legislation, you have but to command us.

MARKET COMMITTEE, AMERICAN NATIONAL
LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION,

By H. A. JASTRO, *Chairman*;
E. L. BURKE, *Vice-Chairman*.

Mr. Wilson's Statement

BY C. M. O'DONEL

Bell Ranch, New Mexico

ASIGNED STATEMENT given to the press August 30 by Thomas E. Wilson, president of Wilson & Co. and chairman of the "Institute of American Meat Packers," purports to offer an affirmative and constructive plan which, if put into effect, will remove some of the principal disadvantages under which the packing industry is now laboring.

Mr. Wilson's position in the industry is a special and peculiar one which reflects much credit on his ability and on his personal qualities. He is not only

chairman of the Institute of American Meat Packers, but he has within the last year or two come to be regarded as, if not the intellectual leader, at least the spokesman of the "Big Five." He has been conspicuous in the movement to bring about better relations between the packers and the producers. For these reasons, although his statement was called forth by a set of questions put to him by the Institute of American Meat Packers, and is presumably addressed to them in the first instance, it will have been examined with

hopeful anticipation by many men engaged in all branches of the live-stock industry. It will have been laid down, after reading, with a keen sense of disappointment.

Those of Mr. Wilson's recommendations which are practicable are not new, and those which may claim some novelty are of doubtful practicability. None of them give promise of prompt or early relief.

Mr. Wilson says that "the following things are needed":

1. An accounting commission, composed of recognized, certified public accountants, divorced from politics, to audit the packers' books every year, and make public an understandable report. Any transgression discovered should be punished under the Sherman Act, the Clayton Act, and other corrective laws already existing.

One can only surmise what Mr. Wilson means by "divorced from politics." If the intention is that the accounting commission proposed shall not be armed with governmental authority, then its labors may be condemned in advance as fruitless. The power to compel the production of records can come only by statutory provision. Mr. Wilson cannot be under the delusion that a commission without this power would satisfy either the public or the producers. And we are compelled to infer that "divorced from politics" bears some other meaning in his mind. But what is it?

2. A non-political investigative body to examine the meat industry from calf to steak, and give out the facts ascertained, with recommendations for improvements.

Here again a "non-political" body is insisted on. To that expression the same objection and the same query apply. To the rest of the proposal there is no objection in principle. A complete "examination of the meat industry from calf to steak" sounds very attractive, and would certainly provide jobs for a large number of worthy men. Incidentally it may be pointed out that the meat industry is not all a process for the evolution of calves into steaks; there are such things as lambs and chops, pigs and sausages. But is there any reason why legislative measures affecting the packing industry should be held up while an army of investigators is determining the average cost of producing a calf in each of forty-eight states?

3. An advisory conference committee, comprising both packers and producers, with consumers and the government both represented, to try to stabilize somewhat the relation between supply and demand; that is, to try to anticipate the demand for meat products, and influence the production and shipment of live stock accordingly.

This appears to be a favorite panacea of Mr. Wilson's. It was largely as a result of his advocacy that a movement was set on foot during the present year among certain state associations of cattlemen to accede to this plan and to appoint members to such a joint committee. Is it not a fact that the lure of stabilization of markets was freely held out? Is it not also a fact that, when a committee of producers did meet with

representatives of the packers in Chicago, in May last, to discuss matters of common concern, and the question of stabilization of markets was broached on the side of the producers, the packers' representatives there present declared themselves powerless to take any steps toward that end? In justice to Mr. Wilson it may be said that he was not present at that meeting, but certainly his firm was not unrepresented. And it is, therefore, with some surprise that we find him now again offering this pleasing bait.

It is not here maintained that stabilization of markets is practicable. Quite probably it is not. But it is certain that, in the operation of any plan that might be devised, the temptation to throw the burden on the shipper would be irresistible. The logic would be quite simple: A depressed market is due to an over-supply. Therefore, if the shipper wants the market to remain steady, let him hold his cattle back. The way to maintain high prices, in fact, is not to avail oneself of a favorable market. Let the shipper hold back his hogs and his cattle, though his corn-bin is empty—though his credit is exhausted. Could the demand for beef products today have been "anticipated" by the man who bred the calf three years ago? Are these practical problems? If so, the country would be glad to see a detailed plan for their working.

4. A definite determination as to whether producers and other groups are hurt or helped by packers' interests in stock-yards. If such interest is helpful, it should be continued; if hurtful, it should be eliminated.

This is one of the questions that the Committee on Agriculture of the United States Senate is now engaged in determining. Can Mr. Wilson suggest a more competent investigative body?

5. Some special agency, composed of recognized economists, to report on the causes of the high cost of living.

Agreed; but the High Cost of Living is not specially a packer's question or a meat problem. This is again a recommendation for an inquiry of enormous extent and infinite intricacy, with a prolonged period of gestation. Pending the birth of the report, what?

The gist of Mr. Wilson's statement may be found in the sentence: "So, what the packing industry needs most is a breathing spell." Investigate, and investigate. Do nothing that will bear any immediate result. In the meantime, leave the packer alone. If this is the new gospel, it has a strangely familiar ring.

Nobody wants to "destroy the packer" or to "put the Big Five out of business." To charge that any organization of live-stock men is working for these objects, or wants the government to take over the packing plants, is the merest moonshine. As an offensive taunt it belongs with the ribaldry of a stock-yards alley. The men who produce the live animals that form the raw material of the packers' business are well aware of the necessity for the packers in the commercial life of the country. The "Big Five" are justly proud of their business success and of the perfection of their organization.

Their efficiency is unquestionable. It is improbable that the operations of slaughtering, of converting the carcass into innumerable commodities, and of distribution could be performed with equal economy by a number of small packers. But the big men must not shrink from the obligations and responsibilities that are laid upon them by their success. They have done much to add to the comfort and raise the standard of living of the American household. But the enormous volume of their business, and the huge machinery of distribution it employs, have become so important a factor in the economic life of the nation as to take on all the characteristics of a

public utility. Admittedly a widespread distrust of the packers and their system exists in the public mind. Whether this is due, as Mr. Wilson maintains, to "misinformed criticism" or to the packers' own methods and published statements is open to question. But so long as it exists the "breathing spell" allowed the packers will be short. This distrust can best be removed by legislative measures which will place the packers under governmental supervision as corporations engaged in the interstate operation of enterprises of public utility, insuring at the same time fair treatment and a fair profit to them, and to the public an open accounting.

Packer Propaganda

IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE, on July 23, during the discussion of the meat-packing bills, when certain protests against the pending legislation were being presented, Senator Thomas, of Colorado, remarked:

If all the protests, by telegram, by letter, and by petition, which are now being sent to Washington by the packers and through their propaganda, are to be placed in the *Record*, our need for paper will come very nearly exhausting the contingent expense appropriation of the Senate. . . . I have letters and telegrams by the score every day from men and women of the best intentions—good citizens, most of whom, I am satisfied, know no more about what is in the Kenyon bill than I do about the signs of the Mexican zodiac.

Senator Kenyon, of Iowa, on the same day read in the Senate, and had printed in the *Congressional Record*, a form of blank which was evidently being circulated among retail butchers through the branch houses of the packers. The blank is as follows:

Branch house : Salesman
Name Address
Business

Question 1: Are you in favor of government ownership and control of basic industries such as railroads, telegraph and telephone companies, packing-houses, etc., which, of course, would restrict competition, as outlined in the Kenyon-Kendrick bill, which is now before the United States Senate?

Answer: No Neutral

Question 2: Do you prefer to purchase your supplies from the government-owned and operated packing plant, or from competitive individual companies?

Answer: Yes No Neutral

Why?

Question 3: This is the first step toward complete government ownership. If you do not advise your senator and representative at Washington, how can he act?

Being opposed to this unfair legislation, would you be willing to write your congressman and senator to this effect?

Answer: No Yes

Question 4: Has the letter been written? If so, when?

Write your letter to:

Hon. A. J. Gronna, chairman Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, Washington, D. C.

The first question is a bald misrepresentation of the provisions of either the Kendrick or the Kenyon bill. Neither measure provides for government ownership of packing-houses. Both bills aim to stimulate competition, instead of restricting it. Question 2 further emphasizes the wrong impression sought to be conveyed by referring to "government-owned and operated packing-

plants." This character of misrepresentation is inexcusable. However, those favoring some reasonable regulation of the packers probably should not criticize the methods which the latter are pursuing in their present propaganda; for such deliberate misrepresentation will be sure to react on Congress and help the passage of this legislation.

A prominent Denver judge was solicited by a packer committee to wire Colorado's senators and representatives, urging them to oppose any meat-packing legislation. In no uncertain language he declined. Relating the incident, he wound up by saying: "What in the world do these big packers mean by objecting to regulation? Don't they know that the clock has moved? Can't they see the handwriting? They are certainly showing poor judgment in trying to influence congressional opinion in this matter."

At different times the big packers have been on the verge of agreeing to most of the provisions of the Kendrick bill. At present, from surface indications, they are opposing every phase of this legislation. Possibly they have adopted the view of Mr. Buckingham, manager of the Stock Yards Company at Omaha (a packer-owned yard), who stated in a recent interview: "The packing business is as large as the government itself, and it is foolish for a lot of grand-standers to theorize on how it shall be conducted."

In discussing this legislation, the *National Farm and Stock Grower*, published in St. Louis, in its August issue says:

The charge that the foundation of monopoly is in the ownership of the stock-yards did not originate in our office. We received it from the American National Live Stock Association, with headquarters at Denver, Colo., and we published it several years ago. They struck the nail right square on the head. The market at Oklahoma City acts the part of a market, and live stock is bought and sold there; but it started as a Morris and Sulzberger market, and it is now a Morris and Wilson market. St. Louis is also a packer-owned market; but so magnificent is the location of St. Louis as a live-stock center that there remains some competition which packers have not frozen, pushed, or shoved out. If the St. Louis market had been an independent

stock-yard under an aggressive management, Chicago would now be No. 2 in cattle, hogs, and sheep, as it is in horses and mules. The packer ownership of the St. Louis stock-yards has been a detriment and a backset.

. . . If a man was obliged to be tried at a criminal court, he would not like the plaintiff to own the judge. If an independent buyer comes into a market, he does not wish his competitor to get a rake-off on his own transactions. The stock-yard is a public utility, and as such the management should endeavor by all means to bring in competition. Where packers control stock-yards, they keep competition out.

The idea that the packers built stock-yards is false. They built no stock-yards. They acquired them. One was acquired as a rebate from a railroad. They bought the control of the St. Louis market to keep out Cudahy. They acquired Fort Worth after the original people were frozen out. Armour was let into St. Louis in order to let Swift into Fort Worth. Wilson has been let into the organization, but he is probably a hired man. Take the stock-yards away from the packers, and you will find that the monopoly will be weakened and the live-stock interests will remain strong.

The market papers still continue to devote a great deal of space to inspired criticism against any kind of meat-packing legislation. The *Breeder's Gazette* in its issue of August 7, in commenting on that provision of

the Kendrick bill which requires that market papers be licensed, states:

. . . This evidently is aimed at the so-called market newspapers, some of which are owned or controlled by the packers. These papers have been a bone of contention for years past. The proponents of the legislation sought by these bills contend that they are utilized to disseminate colored market reports and packer propaganda. As a matter of fact, these papers are the organs of the commission interests, which furnish them with their main support, under the bulk-subscription plan. While they commonly champion the packer, they are nevertheless amenable to the dictates of the several live-stock exchanges at the markets where located, for the reason that a reverse policy would deprive them of their chief source of revenue. While grudging the support he gives them, the commission man prefers to have them subject to his will, as they might be inimical in a free-lance capacity. Most of the packer-owned papers are said to be published at a net loss, the deficits being made up by bonuses contributed by stock-yard companies, without which they would be forced to suspend.

While there may be some question as to whether the commission men or the packers control the market press, no one has yet charged that the stockman has any voice in what they say.

SENATOR CAPPER ON PACKER LEGISLATION

IN *Current Opinion* for September, Senator Capper, of Kansas, writes of "The Great Issues before the Present Congress." It has long been evident, says the senator, that "the overwhelming domestic problem before the country has been to find means of bringing to an end the conscienceless profiteering that is making it almost impossible for the average family to exist." As the packers, though by no means the only offenders, are "involved in the profiteering connected with almost all foodstuffs and with the boot and shoe trade, . . . one of the first elements in the solution of the high-cost-of-living problem," in the opinion of Mr. Capper, "is the effective dealing with the predatory activities of the packer combine." The author then goes on:

Congress already had begun action along this line before the President made his notable address. The Kendrick bill of the last session was the initial step in this direction, and the Kenyon-Anderson bill of this session seeks to deal even more effectively with the same problem. The Kenyon-Anderson bill contemplates the rigid control of the packers, even providing for receiverships for law-breaking packing companies as an extreme measure. Under its terms, companies engaged in the meat-packing industry are required to take out licenses with the government and to come under rigid governmental supervision. They are prohibited from operating stock-yards. They are required to dispose of their ownership of private refrigerator cars to the railroads, which in turn will be required to supply such cars to independent packers on the same terms as to the Big Five packers. Such cars are to be under the control of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which will regulate rates and conditions for their use in the same way that they regulate freight rates.

While the Kenyon-Anderson bill springs from the abuses practiced by the packing-house combine, it is general in its terms and will apply to all concerns, such as commission men and large concerns dealing in poultry, dairy, and like food products, who must apply for a license and thereafter must conduct their business with due regard to the general welfare, and refrain from monopoly and other unfair practices. The penalty for violation of license is either revocation, which is not to be anticipated in the case of large and vitally important industries, or a suspension with a receivership. This idea of receivership in the public interest is entirely new, and may be attacked on the grounds of unconstitutionality, but the opinion of good lawyers in the Senate is that it is constitutional without a doubt, and is a penalty that will be found effective. The packers have begun active propaganda among bankers and business men with whom they have connections, in an attempt to make it appear that government ownership, or management of their business, is proposed, and that this is an opening wedge for government invasion of all industry. This, of course, is not true, and while the receivership idea is new as applied to the packing business, the government for many years has employed this remedy with great benefit to the public in the case of national banks that have violated the banking laws. Only dishonest national bankers have had occasion to complain of the latter law, and only crooked packers and dealers in food products need fear the proposed Kenyon-Anderson law.

The need of some such legislation must be obvious to every thinking person. The big packers have been able to dictate prices to producer and consumer alike. Not alone in meat do the Big Five packers dominate the market; they have obtained a control similar in extent over the principal meat substitutes, such as eggs, cheese, poultry, milk, butter, fish, and all kinds of vegetable-oil products. In recent years they even have gone into the breakfast-food business, and the canning of fruits and vegetables. They are now invading the wholesale grocery field, dealing in staple groceries and vegetables, such as rice, sugar, potatoes, beans, and coffee. The control covers the price paid the producer of food at one end and the price charged the consumer of food at the other end.

NATIONAL SOLDIER SETTLEMENT ACT

THIS MEASURE, known as the Mondell bill (H. R. 487), was favorably reported by a majority of the Committee on Public Lands of the House of Representatives on August 1, 1919. Four members of the committee filed a minority report objecting to it.

The purpose of the bill, as stated in its title, is "to provide employment and rural homes for those who have served with the military and naval forces of the United States during the war between the United States and Germany and her allies, through the reclamation, acquisition, and development of lands, to be known as the 'National Soldier Settlement Act.'"

The rights and benefits of the act are not extended to those who were drafted and refused to serve.

The substantial provisions of the bill are:

Administration is placed in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior, and \$500,000,000 is appropriated for carrying out the purposes of the act.

The secretary may acquire the necessary lands, to be known as "projects." He may undertake the reclamation or development of these so as to place them in shape for use and cultivation. No project can be selected without approval (a) by a representative of the state in which the land is situated, (b) by an appraiser from the Federal Farm Loan Board, and (c) by the Secretary of the Interior.

So far as possible, the services of soldiers shall be utilized in any preliminary administrative or other work.

The land shall be divided into farms of suitable size. Tracts may be dedicated for community or public service. Town-sites may be established.

The sale price of all tracts shall be fixed with a view to paying the total cost. Applicants shall make an initial payment of 5 per cent, and the balance is to be paid in yearly instalments, for a period of not to exceed forty years, with interest at 4 per cent.

Deeds to project lands cannot be transferred within five years without the approval of the secretary. The land is subject to taxation after five years from date of contract.

The secretary may advance not to exceed \$1,500 in any single case for improvements not in excess of three-quarters of the same; he can also advance not to exceed \$1,200 for purchase of live stock and equipment, to be repaid within five years at 4 per cent.

If states co-operate by furnishing at least 25 per cent of the necessary funds, the secretary may authorize the state to carry on the selection, acquisition, and subdivision of projects. The secretary is authorized to make all necessary regulations.

The report favoring this bill contains an elaborate discussion of the many diverse plans which have been suggested in the interest of assisting the returning soldier. All the members of the committee were agreed that something should be done for our soldier boys, and a majority of them were convinced that the soldiers wanted this legislation. The committee consulted every element of our citizenship, "in the hope of evolving a measure that should be founded on sound economic principles, yet made sufficiently elastic to fit the widely varying conditions which must be dealt with in different parts of the country."

The minority report opposing the measure stated that "this bill was first conceived in the fear that after the war was over millions of young men would return to this country and find themselves out of employment. . . . But some economic phenomenon occurred. Three-quarters of the soldiers have returned to civil life, and there is a great shortage of labor in the cities and on the farms." Therefore, the minority argued that the impelling necessity for this legislation has largely disappeared. Their report states that when the matter comes up for consideration they will submit a different proposition.

Whether the soldier wants to go onto the land, or whether this legislation will prove of any real benefit to him, is a much-disputed question that time alone can answer. According to the report of the committee, it is the intention to locate these different projects in the various states—possibly several in each state—so as to furnish opportunities for employment and home-making to the soldiers in their own state. The amount of the appropriation, \$500,000,000, will allow an expenditure of approximately \$10,000,000 in each state. The governors of twenty-seven states have already appointed commissions to co-operate with the Secretary of the Interior on this legislation.

We may not regard this as a wise measure either for the soldiers or for the nation; but, with each state likely to have a share in this development and reclamation work, it is practically certain that the bill will not lack support in Congress. Thus the experiment of soldier settlement is in a fair way to be tried out. We hope it may prove successful.

STOCKMEN OF NEW MEXICO RECORD THEIR SENTIMENTS

AT A MEETING of the executive board of the New Mexico Cattle and Horse Growers' Association held in Magdalena, N. M., on August 4, 1919, several resolutions were adopted, of which the following is a brief résumé:

In view of the difficulty experienced by a large number of cattlemen in the Southwest in financing their business, as a consequence of the droughts and hard winters from which that section has suffered in recent years, Congress was petitioned to take the necessary steps for the extension of credit to stockmen by adopting the farm-loan or a similar system.

Increases in salaries for employees of the Forest Service were advocated, to the end that efficient men might be attracted to, and retained in, that service, to the great benefit of the stock industry on the national forests.

The Kendrick-Kenyon bills received vigorous indorsement.

Transfer of the administration of the national forests from the Department of Agriculture to any other department was strongly opposed.

New Mexico's representatives in Congress were urged to support the bill introduced by Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, for the establishment of game sanctuaries on national forests.

HIGH PRICE OF SHOES UNJUSTIFIED

THAT THE PRESENT HIGH PRICE OF SHOES (and, inferentially, of harness, saddlery, and all other leather goods) can in no way be justified by underlying economic conditions is the finding of the Federal Trade Commission, in its preliminary report to Congress, after exhaustive inquiry into all the factors entering into the problem. The suspicion of a victimized public that the unprecedented rise in the cost of footwear was due to the cumulative effect of price-padding at each successive stage of manufacture and distribution seems to have had ample foundation in fact. The participants in this whirligig of unblushing profiteering, we learn, are five:

1. First the master of ceremonies—the manipulator of the raw hides. Between 1914 and 1917, states the report, as summarized in the *United States Bulletin*, native packer cow-hides increased in price more than 68 per cent. (Seventy-five per cent of the hides produced in the United States are packer hides.) Country hides, during the same period, advanced less than 42 per cent. Thus the pace was set.

2. Next comes the tanner. To the enhanced cost of hides, labor, and materials the tanner gleefully glued on his own modest margin. As a result, it is pointed out, in spite of the heavier expenses, "the earnings on investment in the tanning business were very much greater in 1916 and 1917 than they were in 1914 and 1915."

3. Enters the manufacturer. Having paid more for his leather, other materials having advanced in about the same ratio, and labor again having exacted its due pound of flesh, the manufacturer just naturally joined the jig on his own account. In the words of the report: "The manufacturers' selling prices of shoes increased at a somewhat greater rate than costs." (And, in the words of the *Boot and Shoe Recorder*, of Boston, as quoted in the August PRODUCER: "Shoe manufacturers have made more money in the last two and a half years than in any period in their history.")

4. Follows the wholesaler, determined not to be outdone. Says the report: "The gross profits of wholesale shoe merchants generally ranged above 20 per cent of the cost, and they were somewhat greater in 1918 than in previous years." (Says the *Boot and Shoe Recorder*: "Shoe wholesalers are more prosperous today, their credits are better, and they have made more money than in former years. They have widened their profits.")

5. Finally we have the humble retailer, closing the circle with a whoop. "The retailers' gross profit is around 50 per cent," we learn. "In 1914 it was somewhat lower than it was in 1918. The absolute amount of profit was very much greater in 1918 than in 1914." (*Boot and Shoe Recorder*: "The retail shoe merchant is paying his bills more promptly, is a more prosperous and happy individual. . . . He is making more

money than he ever did before. He has widened his profits.")

The hapless consumer, as usual, pays the fiddler.

"Taking into consideration all the circumstances," the report sums up, "the large profits taken by slaughterers for hides, by shoe manufacturers and retail shoe dealers, cannot be justified, and there is consequently no justification for prices that consumers have been compelled to pay for shoes."

If there is comfort in this for the exasperated *pater familias* who has been investing half of his income for the last three years in foot-casings for the kids, let him make the most of it.

Meanwhile we are informed from other sources that the end is not yet. Shoemen, "in convention assembled," the press tells us, have resolved that prices must go still higher. Prospective advances (further "widening of profits") are announced for the fall and winter of from 10 to 100 per cent, or from \$3 to \$6 a pair of shoes. But—

"There must be no further increase in the cost of shoes," comments the *St. Louis Republic* bitterly. "If necessary, the government should commandeer every hide in the country, put an embargo on the export of footwear, and take every other possible step under its constitutional powers. . . . Dangerous diseases require drastic remedies, and profiteering has become a most dangerous disease in America. If we must shatter every packing-house in America in order to get hides for shoes at reasonable prices, let that be done. If it is necessary to drive every middleman out of business to cut down the prices of the finished products, let's do that."

Some relief, the report more serenely suggests, may be had by (1) a rigid enforcement of the laws against monopolistic control of commodities; (2) legislation forbidding producers of hides engaging in the tanning business; and (3) the adoption of a device in the distribution of shoes that will acquaint the consumer with the selling prices of the manufacturer.

We are waiting to see.

GOVERNORS FAVOR CESSION OF PUBLIC LANDS TO STATES

AT A CONFERENCE OF GOVERNORS of western states held at Salt Lake City, Utah, August 17 and 18, to discuss the public-domain question, a resolution was unanimously adopted requesting Congress to cede all unreserved and unappropriated public lands to the states in which they are located. An organization, under the name of the "League of Public Land States," was perfected to work for the enactment of the necessary laws. Governor Larrazolo, of New Mexico, who has been the leader of the movement resulting in the conference, was elected chairman, and Governor Bamberger, of Utah, vice-chairman. The resolution follows:

WHEREAS, Government records show that the public-land states contain 225,000,000 or more acres of unreserved and unappropriated public lands; and

WHEREAS, Reservation and exemption from taxation of such large bodies of land in the respective states by the federal government seriously cripple said states in their efforts toward full development of natural resources and internal improvement; and

WHEREAS, The public-land states are now facing the most important reconstruction and development era in their history, and believing that the individual states can more economically handle the public lands within their respective boundaries to greater advantage to the people; we, therefore,

Resolve, That it is the sense of this convention that Congress be urged and requested to cede all unreserved and unappropriated public lands, without mineral or other reservations, to the states wherein the same are respectively located.

WHAT THE NATION OWES

BEFORE WE ENTERED THE WAR the public debt of the United States was \$9 for every man, woman, and child in the nation. Today it is \$242. When the bills are all in, it is estimated that it will be close to \$280. The total amount of our debt is now \$25,921,000,000 (see June PRODUCER, page 45). More than one-third of this, however, represents loans to what Mr. Wilson calls our "associates," which, presumably, some day we shall be able to collect in one way or another.

By comparison, the national wealth of the United States today is calculated to be some \$300,000,000,000. Our debt thus constitutes 8.6 per cent of our wealth. At its anticipated maximum it will reach about 10 per cent.

Interest charges on this debt will be around \$1,000,000,000 a year, which is a sum equal to the total annual expenditures of our government before the war. Our population today being estimated at 107,000,000, and the average annual per-capita income of Americans, including children, being \$560, the aggregate of the nation's yearly income is close to \$60,000,000,000. Thus the interest on our debt amounts to 1.66 per cent of our income.

A per-capita debt of \$242 is 43.2 per cent of this per-capita income of \$560. In other words, the average person is in debt on account of his nation to the amount of approximately half of his annual earnings. The per-capita interest on this debt is \$9.35, or 1.85 per cent of the per-capita income.

While these figures, showing the extent of our national obligations, should tend to make us realize the task ahead of us for the next twenty-five years, a sort of grim comfort may be derived from the fact that our brothers-in-arms across the water are in a considerably worse plight. For our late "associates," as compared with ourselves, the figures have the following aspect:

Nation	Wealth per Capita	Income per Capita	Debt per Capita	Interest per Capita
United States...	\$2,803	\$560	\$242	\$ 9.35
Great Britain...	2,608	337	782	34.24
France.....	2,250	300	900	45.00
Italy.....	1,111	208	350	15.22

REDUCING COST OF LIVING THROUGH GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY

COINCIDENTALLY WITH THE DEMAND of our railway workers for an increase in wages to meet the high cost of living comes news from Berlin indicating that the government of the new German republic has been confronted with the same dilemma. How it met it is told thus in a letter to the *National Provisioner*:

In trying to appease the hungry masses, the German government is now applying a new remedy as a cure for the high cost of living. It is a very simple scheme: the government pays for one-half or more of the food the consumer purchases.

The price of American meat, for instance, is 11 marks per German pound (500 grams). Of this the consumer pays 5 marks and the state 6 marks. American bacon is 8 marks per pound. If you want to buy any of it, you pay only half the price. The government pays the other half.

It is the same with other foods. Potatoes, for instance, that cost 33 pfennigs in the market, you can buy for 12 pfennigs of your own money, the state paying the rest. With flour, rice, legumes, lard, etc., it is the same. American lard now costs the consumer only 5 marks net per pound, which, according to the present rate of exchange, is about 40 cents in American money.

The German government expects to spend one billion and a half marks on this subvention scheme in three months. These three months will end October 1. According to Minister of Finance Suedekum, who made this statement in the Prussian diet, the government does not know what it will do after that, although it hopes the artificial reduction in the cost of living will bring about a natural decline in prices. At the same time, the government expects the value of the mark to rise, which would help in toning down prices of staples bought in foreign countries.

The new venture is a direct result of the railroad strike. To the foreign blockade was added a "domestic blockade," as Minister of Railroads Oeser put it. The government was forced to do something. Acceding to the demands of the railroad men would have cost four billion marks more annually. And railroad men were not the only ones clamoring for higher wages.

As a compromise, the government offered cheaper food to the delegates of the striking railroaders, and the men accepted it. The agreement reached is to "benefit" not only the railroad men, but also every consumer. It will save about 27 marks per week to the average worker, according to Minister Oeser. And 27 marks means about 25, or even 33, per cent of the average income of a laborer.

The new system of food subvention began July 6. So far it has worked successfully, it is claimed—at least as far as the consumer is concerned. But how about the taxpayer who has to "cough up" those one billion and a half marks in three months? For, after all, the consumer and the taxpayer are one and the same person.

AGRICULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION IN FRANCE

AFTER EACH GREAT WAR, pessimistic prognosticators speculating on the period needed for the healing of economic wounds have been put to shame by the surprising speed with which industrial and commercial conditions have resumed their normal aspect. That this pleasant experience will be repeated

in the case at least of agricultural France seems to be borne out by recent advices from the devastated regions of that country. The following is an extract from a report to the Department of Commerce by C. D. Snow:

Everyone who has had the opportunity to go through the devastated regions during the planting season this spring has commented on the rapidity with which the land has been put back under cultivation. In the best agricultural districts in the north, where agricultural work has been carried on on a comparatively large scale, allied troops and German prisoners of war have removed the debris from much good agricultural land, and the farmers, with their assistance, have again put the land under cultivation. Trenches have been filled in and land leveled off, the land plowed, so that many regions where there had been barbed-wire entanglements, one row of trenches after another, and a considerable number of shell-holes, now have pretty much the same appearance as before the war. . . .

Possibly two-thirds of the land included in the devastated regions is being easily put in cultivation again. Agricultural reconstruction on this class of land has been rapid, and already thousands of acres of good land that it had looked difficult, but not impossible, to reclaim, have been reclaimed.

PACKERS PREPARING FOR LONG CAMPAIGN

[BY JAMES E. POOLE]

A PERMANENT PROPAGANDA DISPENSARY has been established by the packers in Chicago. It is located on the tenth floor of the Majestic Building, occupying an imposing suite of offices. Indications of permanency are afforded by the fact that the live wires of the publicity departments of Armour, Swift, Morris, and Wilson have moved down-town from their regular haunts in Packingtown. These packers' names are ostentatiously excluded from the sign on the entrance—the name announcing that it is the headquarters of the American Meat Packers' Association and the recently organized Institute of American Packers. The impression prevails that the latter is to be the virile organization hereafter. At the end of the main hall leading into these offices is a conference-room, wherein the "big guys" meet regularly to discuss trade, legislative, and psychological problems. Capacious storage for literature has been provided.

An essential part of the equipment is a card index, which is credited with containing the names and addresses of most of the live-stock growers and shippers of the United States, and is practically a duplicate of the mailing lists of the market papers. Pamphlets are piled ceiling-high. From this source the market papers get their inspiration and orders.

On August 27, before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, Mr. L. H. D. Weld, head of the division of Swift & Co. bearing the high-sounding title of "Economic Research Department," testified that that company spent \$1,500,000 on advertising during 1918, and intended to keep up its efforts in that line in an endeavor to "educate the public and eliminate the unjust prejudice against the packer." The other packers have been making similarly liberal expenditures, and through the new venture, the "Institute of American Packers," are expected to hand out money lavishly in their present campaign of enlightenment.

MARKET PRESS LOYAL TO ITS MASTERS

[BY JAMES E. POOLE]

PACKERS HAVE TESTED the loyalty of their friends, the editors of the market press, and have not found them wanting. No such fervent appeal for assistance has been sounded since the Macedonians made their historic cry: "Come over and

help us!" The market papers have responded vociferously. They heeded their master's voice.

According to the market press, if the Kendrick or Kenyon bill be enacted, the live-stock industry will go to the bow-wows. Grass and other vegetation will attain luxuriant growth in stock-yard pens and alleys. Producers will confront ruin. General Demoralization is scheduled to ride his cavalry roughshod over a prosperous industry. Cattle will not be worth the hides on their backs; political henchmen will determine the value of hogs.

The market press is indifferent to the opinion of its readers, as its bills are paid in the main by commission men; and in this discussion the commission man is pro-packer to the extent that he is averse to government interference with his activities. Some of the live-stock exchanges and commission men have declared open war on the Secretary of Agriculture for revoking the license of six commission firms because of the feed-overcharge scandal—on which, by the way, you do not notice any comment in the market press. The commission firms involved in this overcharge affair secured a temporary injunction on August 28, restraining the secretary. The case has been set for September 15. It promises to be a *cause celebre*; for the commission men are determined to beat the license clause of the Kendrick bill.

Early in the current controversy the packers' publicity campaigners intimated in no uncertain language what would happen at the stock-yards if government regulation became a fact. The present market system, the packers asserted, would fall like a house of cards; country buying, instead of being the exception, would become the rule. Armour's representative notified both the traders and the commission men of that fact at the meeting of the National Traders' Exchange at Omaha recently. This threat has been used to scare the market papers, traders, and commission men. But the assumption that it had that effect would be a reflection on the intelligence of these elements, which are of more than average astuteness—the logical inference being that the market papers have merely done as they were bid. The financial side of the problem must be left to conjecture. The mastery of the market press has been definitely established.

MONEY MARKET OUTLOOK BRIGHT

[BY SAMUEL SOSLAND]

PROSPECTS IN THE MONEY MARKET are far brighter for the live-stock breeding and feeding industry than the outlook for feedstuffs. Funds for financing feeding operations, which involve the creation of what is designated as short-time paper, are abundant—more so than a year ago—and promise to continue plentiful. On the Kansas City market, where it is estimated by leading bankers that the annual volume of cattle loans handled totals \$300,000,000, the demand for such paper is strong, with the offerings the last few weeks smaller than the call from banks which are experiencing sharp increases in their deposits.

A significant phase of the cattle-loan situation is the withdrawal of this paper from banks in the East, including New York, for redistribution locally and among country banks. A little more than a month after the inauguration of the new winter-wheat crop movement, one financial institution of Kansas City withdrew from New York about \$5,000,000 in cattle loans which had been placed there in the form of demand notes. Its customers—country banks—called for the loans, and its own increases in deposits enabled it to invest funds in that paper. In addition, country banks, especially in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri, have experienced increases in their deposits, which

have brought them into the market as strong buyers of commercial paper. Packers' loans are going to country banks to net around $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Some Armour paper is available at not more than $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Since July 1, when the winter-wheat crop year of 1919-20 opened, the banks of Kansas City alone have recorded an increase of 20 per cent, or \$50,000,000, in their deposits; this being the result largely of the sale of new wheat at the guaranteed prices, which are on the basis of \$2.18 a bushel for No. 1 hard. Interior banks of the Southwest have experienced even more rapid increases in deposits. With heavy runs of cattle now moving out of Kansas and Oklahoma pastures, bank deposits are increasing further. It is expected that the deposits in Kansas City will show an increase of \$100,000,000 over July 1 by the end of 1919. Optimism over the accumulation of funds in the Southwest has, however, been modified to a small degree by the sharp deterioration in corn in Kansas. This state probably will again find it necessary in the next year to send some of its money to Iowa and Illinois for corn.

Naturally, with deposits accumulating, the tendency of the money market is downward. The easier conditions are not local; for the same trend is indicated in the East by reports from its great financial markets and by the inquiries it is making for cattle paper.

The policy of bankers continues to require strong margins of feeders on loans. The same policy is in force in the financing of other business activities. "This is a time of readjustment," it is pointed out. On the thousands of cattle purchased last spring for summer grazing, wide margins were required in lending, and, with losses confronting the grazers in numerous instances, very little or no difficulty is reported in the liquidation of the loans made. Long-time loans on breeding stock continue less popular.

September, October, and November are, of course, the months of heaviest borrowing on cattle for feeding and wintering purposes. With the arrival of this period, it is gratifying to the industry to find, not only that bankers of the Middle West are in a favorable position to meet the demands to be made, but that some feel that less dependence than ever before will have to be placed on the East in this financing.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES IMPORTANT TRADE FACTOR

[BY SAMUEL SOSLAND]

DEPRESSION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES is deserving of an important place among the factors entering into the fluctuations in the prices of live stock on the markets of the United States. This depression is undoubtedly more important and influential in American markets than realized by the thousands of producers who are sellers of cattle, hogs, sheep, grain, and other products. It demands attention because of the fact that foreign exchange rates have dropped to the lowest levels in the history of the United States, with results which are unfavorable to the exportation of surplus products and encouraging to the importation of goods from abroad.

Even Canadian exchange has been quoted recently at a discount of around $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This means that the Canadian dollar is worth only $94\frac{1}{2}$ cents in the United States, and that the American dollar is worth \$1.05 $\frac{1}{2}$ in Canadian money in the Dominion. Suppose the holder of cattle in Alberta or Saskatchewan, the southern portions of which are experiencing dry weather, ships a load of heavy steers to South St. Paul or to Chicago, which net \$3,000 on those markets. The Canadian cattleman can take that \$3,000 check on the Chicago or St. Paul

bank, which calls for American dollars, and receive at his home bank in Canada \$3,165 in Dominion dollars, on the basis of the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent premium. On the other hand, the Canadian stockman who wants to purchase a \$500 or \$1,000 bull in the United States must send to this country, on the basis of the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent discount against his currency, \$527.50 or \$1,055 in Canadian money, to equal \$500 or \$1,000 in American dollars.

The English pound sterling is now quoted around \$4.20 in the United States, and was down to \$4.12 the past week—the lowest price on record—compared with the normal value of \$4.86 $\frac{1}{2}$. This amounts to a discount of about 14 per cent on British money. It means that the British buyer who contracts for \$10,000 worth of beef in this country, or for \$10,000 worth of pork, must pay \$11,400 in his own money to offset the discount prevailing against the pound sterling. And when the British sell in this country, they can convert, as in the case of the Canadian seller, every American dollar at their home banks at a premium. The American dollar, however, is worth \$1.14 today in British money.

The German mark is worth only $4\frac{3}{4}$ cents today in the United States, against the normal par of 23.8 cents. Think of the disadvantage which this entails in Germany in buying American pork and other American foodstuffs! The German must pay about 23 marks to get in the United States the equivalent of \$1, whereas a little more than 4 marks was equal to \$1 here prior to the European war. And the German who makes a sale of goods to the United States can convert each American dollar he receives into 23 marks at his home bank, instead of into 4 marks.

France has lately taken a few cattle from the United States and is, of course, a steady buyer of foodstuffs of various classes here in fluctuating quantities. French exchange is at such a sharp discount that it now requires 8.08 francs to equal \$1, compared with the normal rate of exchange of 5.18 $\frac{1}{2}$ francs to the dollar. This is a discount of nearly 60 per cent. Italian exchange is quoted at a discount of fully 70 per cent.

Depreciation of European currency, and the great excess of American exports to Europe as compared with imports, account for the sensational declines in foreign exchange. In some banking quarters it is stated that a turn will come after the treaties of peace are concluded, which may be followed by heavy lending to Europe to finance her purchases in this country. It is proposed to provide for federal incorporations to engage in foreign financing. No definite steps toward the solution of the problem have been taken thus far, and, in the meanwhile, the demoralized condition of the foreign exchange market is adversely affecting the purchasing power of Europe in this country and encouraging her to send more goods to this country.

If manufacturers engaged in the export business are affected, their employees will also feel the lessened call for the goods they help produce, and then their purchasing power will be reduced. It is hoped, however, that, with Europe's urgent needs and her great resources even after a war without precedent for destructiveness, means will be found to encourage her purchases in this country. She needs much food and raw material, no matter what the cost. But it is essential that Europe continue purchasing more than her absolute needs, in order to maintain business activity on its present scale in the United States.

If nations were as deliberate in deciding on war as they are in agreeing on peace there would be no war.—*Newark News*.

The magnitude of the problem of "getting Mexico on her feet" is best appreciated by those who are familiar with the spectacle of the Mexican recumbent in the sun. You can get him on his feet, but you can't keep him there. We should say that the only way to "get Mexico on her feet" would be to tilt the axis of the earth.—*Chicago Tribune*.

LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

[BY JOSEPH RAYMOND]

(Special Correspondence to *The Producer*)

LONDON, July 23, 1919.

THE QUESTION of the proposed importation of Canadian live cattle into the United Kingdom, although it has been voted against by all pedigree stock-owning parties during the last two or three months, is not being allowed to rest. The method and aims adopted by the supporters of the import movement were revealed at the Royal Agricultural Show Conference at Cardiff last month. This conference unanimously carried a resolution deprecating most strongly any proposal to repeal the Diseases of Animals Act of 1896, which is the standing barrier against live import. However, a champion for the other side, who was present from the Cattle Markets Committee of the City of London Corporation, said that he believed it was thirty-three years since any disease existed among Canadian stock. He admitted that British breeders were nervous of American cattle going over the Canadian frontier in case importing into the United Kingdom were allowed, but thought that safeguards could be made.

Since the conference in question, a deputation in favor of free importation of Canadian cattle has waited upon the president of the Board of Agriculture, but was told that the difficulty was that, if the board got the power to admit Canadian stock cattle, it would be compelled to refrain from using it because land was rapidly going out of cultivation for want of labor.

The agitation among meat-producers in Great Britain for an increase in the maximum price of live cattle is now getting into full swing. The reason urged for this required action by the government is the shortage and dearness of cattle feed consequent upon the drouthy season. Some strength is given to the movement on behalf of fat-stock raisers by the 22 per cent addition just granted by the Food Controller to the price of milk payable to the farmer—a revision also resulting from the drought. Producers of beef and mutton, it is stated, will be unable to produce from their usual grazing area this summer and autumn as much as three-fourths of the meat procurable in a normal season, and then only at a greatly advanced cost for feed, the price of which has now jumped 33½ per cent above what it was a year ago.

Hence the call for higher prices, which, it is reasonable to expect, may be granted, thus laying the foundation for the dearer-meat period which was prophesied for next winter. It is suggested that for the time being the Ministry of Food might help toward the desired rise by restoring the May and June prices for mutton and beef.

The only circumstance that could obviate a general shortage in winter feed in England is a good crop of late roots, which is very doubtful. Mangolds are a partial failure, and dry fodder is extremely short as regards hay and straw, particularly the former. Therefore, output of meat must be limited as well as dear for the producer. It is a hopeless policy, of course, to drive the farmer to the precipitate course of selling in a store condition or running his stock rough; and, doubtless, the scale of prices will be adjusted to enable him to shoulder his burden.

JULY CLEARINGS BREAK ALL RECORDS

BANK CLEARINGS DURING JULY, according to *Bradstreet's*, were the greatest ever recorded, reflecting active trade and speculation, large bond sales, and the floating of heavy credits to Europe and of new enterprises at home. For 132 cities the total clearings were \$37,181,324,315, representing a gain of 9.6 per cent over the month of June, and 31 per cent in excess of the clearings in July, 1918.

PACKERS AND THE RETAIL BUSINESS

THROUGHOUT WESTERN CANADA, in Oregon and Washington, and to a limited extent in California, the packers maintain extensive retail markets. The P. Burns Packing Company (the largest in Canada) conducts retail meat establishments all over western Canada. Frye & Co., of Seattle; Carstens & Co., of Tacoma; the Union Meat Company, of Portland, Ore. (a Swift concern), all own and operate retail meat markets in the important cities of Oregon and Washington. Portland, Seattle, and Tacoma are dotted with retail meat markets operated by these packers. These markets are of the most up-to-date type, and handle a much larger trade than the average butcher shop in the rest of the United States. Consequently they are able to operate at a smaller margin of profit. The practical utility and economy of this system have been conclusively demonstrated in the Northwest.

Why, then, it may be asked, has the system not been extended to other sections of the country? Stockmen have frequently, indeed incessantly, importuned the big packers to open retail houses in consuming sections, so as to furnish the consumer with meat products at the minimum of middleman's cost. But the big packers have flatly declined to do so; and they have never, in our opinion, offered any satisfactory explanation of their reasons. They say that they do not want to antagonize their retail customers, and that, if they went into the retail business, it would provoke further criticism against them. Is this a sound objection, or merely an evasion? We think the public is entitled to a clear exposition of the packers' views on this retail problem. It does seem to us that there must exist a more persuasive reason for their action, and we suspect that it lies in the fear that the control which they now exercise over the meat trade of this country might be lessened if they embarked upon the retail business.

THE CALENDAR

- September 29-October 4, 1919—National Swine Show and Exposition, Des Moines, Iowa.
- October 6-11, 1919—Fall Stock Show, Tulare, Cal.
- October 6-12, 1919—National Dairy Show, Chicago, Ill.
- October 8-10, 1919—Stocker and Feeder Show, St. Joseph, Mo.
- October 18-26, 1919—Live-Stock Show, Los Angeles, Cal.
- November 1-8, 1919—California International Live-Stock Show, San Francisco, Cal.
- November 3-7, 1919—Western Royal Live Stock Show, Spokane, Wash.
- November 9-14, 1919—Northwest Live-Stock Show, Lewiston, Ida.
- November 9-16, 1919—National Farm and Live-Stock Show, New Orleans, La.
- November 17-22, 1919—Pacific International Live-Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- November 17-22, 1919—American Royal Live-Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- November 29-December 6, 1919—International Live-Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
- January 17-24, 1920—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.
- March 10-15, 1920—Southwestern Exposition and Fat-Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.

THE PRODUCER

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BY THE

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"THE PRODUCER" DELAYED

The strike microbe has reached Denver. Early this month our printers were infected. The crest of the epidemic has been passed, and they are now convalescing; but, incidentally, this number of *THE PRODUCER* is nearly two weeks late. We trust that, under the circumstances, our subscribers and advertisers will forbear.

GENERAL BUSINESS OUTLOOK

THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY evidenced in July was not maintained during August, and the autumn buying has not opened up with the usual snap. An unmistakable reversal of sentiment has changed the confident expectation of uninterrupted commercial expansion. Hesitation, ultra-conservatism, and growing doubt are now in evidence. Markets have turned sharply against holders, and lower prices have been scored on many commodities. Corn, oats, hogs, cattle, sheep, pork, and lard are appreciably lower than at the beginning of August. Cotton has declined in price. Hides are off about 25 per cent. The sale of government supplies undoubtedly has had some influence; likewise the threatened embargo on food-stuffs; but these do not entirely account for the change in sentiment.

Bradstreet's weekly food index, based on the prices per pound of thirty-one articles used for food, was \$4.95 for the week ending September 4, compared with \$5.30 for the week ending July 31, which marked the apex of the advance. This represents an average decrease of 6.6 per cent. Agricultural and live-stock products in the raw state have declined more than the general average.

Iron and steel show a notably firm tone. Coal and coke are in good demand at stronger values. Lumber is active; but there are indications of a slow-up in building on account of the high prices of materials and unsettled labor conditions.

The government report for September slightly reduces the total of the wheat crop; oats harvested are less than last year; but the corn crop is estimated to be about 2,850,000,000 bushels, which is 300,000,000 bushels above that of 1918.

The number of business failures, while showing a slight rise for August, is still exceptionally low. This is noteworthy as an evidence that retailers are doing unusually well.

Export demand has flattened out perceptibly on account of the weakness in foreign exchange.

FEDERAL MEAT INSPECTION

IT WAS UPTON SINCLAIR'S BOOK, "The Jungle," which first drew attention to the insanitary conditions prevailing at some of the big packing-houses. Shortly after its publication, President Roosevelt appointed a committee of investigation. Largely as a result of the report of this committee, Congress passed the meat-inspection act, effective October 1, 1906. Reference to the hearings held before the House Committee on Agriculture when the bill was under consideration discloses that the big packers actively opposed it, claiming that conditions at the packing-houses were sanitary, and that inspection to insure the wholesomeness of their products was totally unnecessary. They contended that they were manufacturing only clean and healthful meat, and that it would be a waste of government money to inaugurate an inspection service. Congress, however, thought differently and passed the present law.

In this issue of *THE PRODUCER* will be found an interesting contribution on the scope of our federal meat-inspection system. It is worthy of careful reading. The meat inspection of the United States government is the best in the world. It reflects great credit on the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Animal Industry. European countries recognize its efficiency, and to a great extent it has aided in the extension of our foreign trade in meat products.

Now that the big packers are so vigorously opposing the Kendrick bill, it is instructive to recall their opposition to the meat-inspection law. After a lapse of twenty-three years, we doubt whether they would desire to have that law annulled. In our opinion it is only a question of time when they will entertain the same views regarding the sane and reasonable regulation of their industry proposed in the Kendrick bill.

It should not be forgotten that the bankers opposed the national banking act, which has proved of such great and lasting benefit both to the banks themselves and to their patrons, putting our banking system on a sound basis, and wiping out irresponsible and wild-cat methods. It should likewise be borne in mind that the railroads opposed the interstate commerce law, which, too, has been of incalculable, and now universally recognized, benefit to this nation.

CAPITAL AND LABOR

AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE has been called by President Wilson for October 6, to meet at Washington, for the purpose of endeavoring to settle the never-ending dispute between capital and labor. It is understood that the labor engaged in agricultural pursuits and the raising of live stock will be represented. And it is well that some recognition is given to that class of labor; for on it, in great measure, depends the prosperity of our nation. Everything considered, farm labor is far from being as well paid today as the labor employed in industrial centers. For that reason it is more difficult to secure; and, consequently, it is more costly to raise farm products. Labor is, to a certain degree, liquid, and will gravitate toward the best wage wherever offered. So, whatever may be done in the way of ameliorating the conditions or adjusting the wages of the working class in the city is certain to be indirectly reflected in the volume and cost of farm products. Agricultural workers can hardly be expected to toil twelve hours a day or more in order to lower the cost of living for those who are demanding a work-day of six or seven hours, with a five-day week and a 50 per cent increase in wages. This pyramiding of wages will in the end bring its own remedy, in that it will spell disaster alike to labor, capital, and the general public. Perhaps our country has been suffering from too much prosperity. Everyone wants to play the gentleman and let the other fellow do the hard work in feeding him.

There is a growing conviction that the best remedy for this constant friction between labor and capital lies in the proposition to give the workers a direct interest in the business, either by allowing them to purchase such an interest at a reasonable price, or by giving them a liberal share in the profits. This scheme possesses much merit. It should mean greater efficiency for labor, increased production, possibly shorter hours, and certainly a better understanding of some of the perplexities and difficulties which confront capital. The employer, on the other hand, should welcome such a proposition, as it would stabilize his business, insure the co-operation of his workmen, and relieve him of the annoyance incident to incessant disputes and strikes.

This is neither a new nor an untried experiment in farm communities. Many farms are leased on a crop rent or kindred basis, and the scheme has proved satisfactory. Nor would it be a new venture in industrial concerns. Some have adopted it, and it has proved successful.

Unless a workable plan along this line is agreed to and put into effect, there will be unceasing trouble with the labor unions. They have demonstrated their power, and they propose to use it. At present they are the arbiters of their wages and the hours they will work.

But if such a mutual, general scheme should be

deemed utopian at the present time, the only thing that will cure the intolerable situation now prevailing is hard times, a soup kitchen, and a bread line. We hope the forthcoming conference will find means of avoiding that.

THE TARIFF

LOOMING BIG on the legislative horizon is the next tariff bill. If imports of merchandise continue to increase at the rate witnessed in July, our manufacturers and workingmen will soon be complaining that the domestic market has been invaded by foreign goods, and urging that steps be taken by Congress to protect home labor and home industries. The unprecedented discount in foreign exchanges is a heavy handicap on exports of commodities, and to the same extent encourages imports. Therefore an increase in imports and a decrease in exports is a logical consequence. Foreign governments do not seem especially concerned over this problem; at least there is no indication that they are trying to keep their exchange from declining. In fact, the suspicion exists that they may be helping the decline along, so as to depress prices for our products and raw materials, and thus enable them to get their needed supplies later on a more favorable basis. Obviously, if foreign nations can possibly worry along without our products, it is very much to their advantage to have the present exchange discounts continue indefinitely, as they give their merchants an abnormal premium on the goods they sell to us.

For example, cotton, of which we export large quantities, is today selling in this country at about 30 cents a pound. At the prevailing rate of exchange it would cost the English spinner here 34 cents, to which must be added transportation charges. The French spinner would have to pay about 50 cents; the Italian spinner, about 60 cents; and the price to the German would be so high as to be practically prohibitive, as the German mark is at a discount of 75 per cent. Inversely, goods of foreign manufacture sold to us would enjoy the tremendous benefit arising from these discounts in exchange. Indeed, it would take a very lofty tariff wall to equalize this. But, fortunately, this abnormal condition will not continue forever. Decrease in exports and increase in imports will change it.

Foreign countries cannot pay the huge balance they owe us in gold. If this balance is ever to be liquidated, it must be in commodities of some kind. Some American securities are still held abroad, but it is doubtful whether the holders are willing to sell them. Foreign governments have no power to compel their sale to us, even if they were so disposed.

During those earlier years when we produced a large surplus of grain and meat products, our domestic prices were influenced by the price that could be obtained abroad for this surplus. The protective duty then imposed on these commodities really meant nothing to

the farmer and stock-raiser; and, so long as it was harmless, there was no demand for its removal. But when, in later years, our domestic consumption more nearly approximated our production, and imports of agricultural and meat products might affect the price, Congress was quick to place live stock, meat products, and all other agricultural commodities on the free list. There is no use in the farmer or stockman fooling himself that ever again will there be an import duty on what he produces. That time has passed.

THE RAILROADS

ABOUT TEN DIFFERENT BILLS, embodying as many varying views, have been introduced in Congress for the solution of the railroad problem. The employees, the security-owners, the railroad executives, chambers of commerce, some shipping organizations, and others, all have framed bills which have been considered by the Senate and House Committees on Interstate Commerce. Lengthy hearings have been in progress for many months.

The Plumb plan for nationalizing the railroads is indorsed by the railroad brotherhoods. It provides for the purchase of the roads by the government, on the basis of actual money invested. Bonds for that purpose are to be sold at 4 per cent. The roads are to be operated by a tripartite board of employees, officers, and the public.

Under the security-owners' scheme the government will guarantee a minimum return of 6 per cent to the railroads, with a division of earnings above that amount among the roads, labor, and shippers. Regional commerce commissions are to be established to assist the Interstate Commerce Commission, and also to act as boards of arbitration in wage disputes.

Both of these plans are objectionable in that they tend to stifle individual and corporate initiative, remove incentive to perform good service, and promote inefficiency and extravagance. This would happen in any industry with a guaranteed return on the investment and labor. Neither of these bills has any prospect of favorable action.

The Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce on September 2 favorably reported the Cummins bill, the salient provisions of which are:

Return of the railroads to private ownership promptly after the enactment of the bill;

Enlarging the powers and duties of the Interstate Commerce Commission so as to give it virtual control of the railroads, including wages and operation;

Creation of a new railroad transportation board of five members to supervise railroad development and operation;

Creation of a committee on wages and working conditions, composed equally of representative employees and employers, with wide authority in settling labor questions, subject to the decision of the transportation board and the Interstate Commerce Commission;

Prohibiting strikes and lockouts, with fine and imprisonment penalties; the right of laborers to quit employment for any reason to be recognized and preserved, but combines to hinder, restrain, or prevent movement of commodities or persons in interstate commerce, or agreements which have that effect, to be penalized;

Defining a new policy for concentration in ownership and operation of railroads, with federal incorporation into not less than twenty and not more than thirty-five regional systems; no guarantee to be given by the government as to future railroad income.

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce will soon conclude its hearings, and then take up the task of preparing a bill to be reported by that committee, which will differ in some material features from the Cummins bill.

Railroad legislation will be one of the big issues in Congress this fall and winter; but it is extremely doubtful whether it can be enacted in time to return the railroads to their owners by the first of the year.

Mr. S. H. Cowan, attorney of the American National Live Stock Association, together with Mr. Rowe, of the Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, has appeared before the Senate and House committees and ably presented the views of the live-stock industry on this legislation.

* * *

The Cummins bill, passed by the Senate, restoring full powers to the Interstate Commerce Commission over the railroads during the period of government control, has been favorably reported by the House Committee on Interstate Commerce. This bill should be promptly enacted, so as to prevent some of the numerous changes in rates and rules and regulations continually being made on recommendation of the different traffic committees. What the public wants is a review by the Interstate Commerce Commission of the reasonableness of many of these changes, and an opportunity for shippers to be heard before they are put into effect.

THE DRIVE TO REDUCE PRICES

THE DRIVE AGAINST THE HIGH COST OF LIVING, so as to forestall the threatened railroad strikes this fall, is still on. So far, live stock has suffered more than any other commodity. The farmer and the stockman are a most vulnerable target—they cannot strike. The attack on retail profiteering has not made any noticeable headway. Consumers seem to have plenty of money, and retailers have no trouble in separating them from it without lowering prices. Proverbially, one's expenses increase with his income. Prodigality in expenses has a lot to do with this high cost of living. Moral suasion and threats will not influence the retailer. More drastic action is necessary, and the government seems inexcusably slow in applying it. A subscriber transmits the information that the manager of a retail grocery firm in his town has credited himself with a salary of \$25,000, for the purpose of

partially avoiding the excess profit tax. This is indicative of the riotous profiteering among some of our retailers. Research along this line by the federal authorities should prove instructive.

The popular as well as official prescription for curing the high cost of living is to produce more and to save more. Increased production of many manufactured articles is a vital necessity; but the rule does not apply to the farm or range. There is no shortage of the important articles of food, such as grain, meat, and dairy products. On the contrary, there is an admitted surplus of these for export—a larger surplus than it now seems possible to dispose of abroad. This country is in shape to supply the requirements of Europe, as estimated by Mr. Hoover some months ago; and it now begins to look as though he had largely overestimated these needs, as he did the depletion of live stock in the warring countries. Only a few weeks ago it was officially stated by him that there was a congestion of food products on the wharves of Europe. Of course, that helped the slump.

Plainly, therefore, the appeal for increased production is not predicated upon any present or impending shortage in these necessities. In fact, any greater output of them is wholly inadvisable, and any further decline in the prices received by stockmen and farmers is not warranted either by domestic or by world conditions. Are we ready to depress prices and increase the value of a dollar, and pay our staggering debts with money worth much more than when the debts were incurred? Many classes of cattle are today selling at absolutely less than the cost of production, and at little above the pre-war basis. With the price of everything else about double, it can be readily understood that, when a balance is struck, many stockmen will be found to have lost money.

DECLINE IN LIVE-STOCK PRICES

THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 13 witnessed a sharp decline in prices on all kinds of live stock at all markets, and many predictions are being made that the bottom has not yet been reached. The market on half-fat cattle and stockers and feeders has been especially mean even at the decline, and the spread between that class and fat cattle has widened.

Stockmen who contracted for cattle last fall to run on Kansas grass this summer are experiencing heavy losses. Members of the Kansas State Live Stock Association met at Emporia, Kan., September 12 and 13, to consider the disastrous slump in prices. Many cattlemen present declared they would send their cattle back to Texas or other pastures rather than accept the present ruinous prices at market. If enough of them will do this, and stockmen in other sections of the West who can hold their stock will follow the same plan, the situation should change for the better.

HEARINGS ON THE KENDRICK-KENYON BILLS

ON SEPTEMBER 12 and 13 the following individuals appeared before the Senate Committee on Agriculture at Washington in vigorous support of pending meat-packing legislation:

E. L. Burke, of Omaha, Neb.; I. T. Pryor, of San Antonio, Tex., and H. C. Wallace, of Des Moines, Iowa—all members of the Market Committee of the American National Live Stock Association; L. C. Brite, of Marfa, Tex., president of the Panhandle and Southwestern Stockmen's Association; C. W. Pugsley, of Lincoln, Neb., member of the Producers' Committee of Fifteen; Mr. Gustafson, president of the Farmers' Union of Nebraska; and John Grattan, of Broomfield, Colo., representing the farmers' organizations of Colorado.

Further hearings will not be held until the Peace Treaty has been disposed of, at which time many other supporters of this legislation will be heard.

REGULATION OF COLD-STORAGE PLANTS

WE HOPE that the general onslaught on cold-storage practices will result in reducing the quantity of poultry and fish put in storage. Fish and poultry do not respond to refrigeration so well as many other commodities. Consumers are heartily tired of having storage fish and chickens worked off on them as the fresh article. Our federal authorities should conduct a careful examination and determine, from a sanitary and health standpoint, what articles should be permitted to be kept in cold storage. Many commodities, such as butter, eggs, meats, fruits, and certain vegetables, do not deteriorate in cold storage, while other articles come out of storage in a condition positively detrimental to health.

Storage of foods in times of plenty is wise and necessary. It tends to keep prices on a more nearly level keel throughout the year, and permits the continuous use of many foods that otherwise could not be secured except during the growing or production period. Government regulation of these cold-storage plants is what is needed.

BILL FOR REGULATION OF COLD-STORAGE BUSINESS

ON AUGUST 7, 1919, Senator McKellar, of Tennessee, introduced a bill in the United States Senate for the prohibition of transportation and sale in interstate commerce of adulterated and misbranded food products, and for the general regulation of the cold-storage business. Under the terms of the proposed act, any article of food which has been held in cold storage for more than a certain specified period, or which shall fail to bear a label stating the date of its manufacture and the length of time it has been held in storage, shall be deemed misbranded. "Cornering," or in any way interfering with free competition in the sale of, such cold-storage products shall likewise be deemed unlawful, subject to heavy penalties.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

THE PRODUCER invites the stockmen of the country to take advantage of its columns to present their views on problems of the day as they affect their industry. It solicits correspondence on topics of common concern, such as stock, crop, and weather conditions, doings of state and local organizations, records of transactions of more than individual interest. Make it your medium of exchange for live-stock information between the different sections of the stock-raising region. Address all communications to THE PRODUCER, 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 25, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

The area of the drought includes the northern half or two-thirds of Wyoming, the western part of North Dakota beyond Minot, Bismarck, and Lemmon, and all of Montana. Northwestern South Dakota is said to be affected. The area extends into Canada; Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan being about as severely affected as Montana.

The Department of Agriculture has inaugurated a relief service, under orders from the secretary. A committee of three has been appointed, of which the writer is chairman; the other members being Mr. L. D. Hall, of the Bureau of Markets, and Mr. C. B. Smith, of the States Relations Service, who is in charge of the agricultural extension work in the northern and western states.

Considerable work had already been done in the way of determining available lands in Minnesota to which live stock might be sent, and it was decided to establish a temporary relief office in the East, which would put the owners of land and feed in touch with supplies of cattle. At the same time, arrangements were made to establish a clearing-house of information at Billings, Mont., to serve the northwestern stockmen and give them information concerning feed supplies and pasture locations. The eastern office is in charge of Mr. E. W. Sheets, Exchange Building, South St. Paul, Minn. The western office is in charge of Mr. John C. Burns, Court House Building, Billings, Mont. Co-operating with these men are the offices of the Bureau of Markets, extension divisions of the agricultural colleges, county agents, and offices of the state departments of agriculture.

In Montana we are fortunate in having the hearty co-operation, not only of the Agricultural College authorities, but of the Montana Stock Growers' Association and the Montana Live Stock Commission. Already about 50,000 cattle and at least 50,000 sheep have been moved into northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and thousands of cattle have been moved into the plains country in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. Some Montana and Wyoming stockmen are considering the possibility of moving cattle into Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico. The average ranchman hesitates about moving stock to what he calls the "soft grass," and most Montana people dread the idea of having to provide winter feed and shelter beyond their usual requirements. However,

the survey of the possibilities in the northern part of the central states—namely, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan—indicates that there is a large quantity of grass and hay available there, and it is our impression that, properly handled, live stock could be carried through the summer, fall, and even the winter months in that section without difficulty.

If cattle or sheep are sent into that region, they should not be allowed to shift for themselves; and it would be wise if the stockman moving there should move his outfit with his stock. The plains country, from South Dakota to the Michigan border above the Texas-fever quarantine line, has available pasture for thousands of cattle. Texas and New Mexico have overcome the effects of the drought so rapidly that it does not seem possible that a year ago that great region was almost a desert. Estimates indicate that Texas could take care of from 150,000 to 200,000 head of cattle beyond what she now has, and New Mexico could possibly take care of 40,000 or 50,000 head.

The safest policy for the ranchman in Montana or Wyoming to follow would be to aim to keep his fine breeding stock at home, if at all possible. Steers, dry fat cows, yearlings, and two-year-old steers and heifers should go before the cows are moved. This has many advantages, which will occur to anyone who knows the cattle business. The department's interest in the matter is to preserve the breeding stock of the districts affected, to prevent the slaughter of cows and ewes which should be bred, and to avoid a glut on the market of half-fat cattle and lambs during the period of outward movement.

With the organization which we have at work, and the support which we are able to give to the offices of the Bureau of Markets at live-stock marketing centers, we hope that we shall succeed in fulfilling this purpose.

I am glad to say that my impression of the situation, after a somewhat careful study of it, leads me to have a feeling of decided confidence in the ultimate outcome. The condition of the live-stock industry in the affected areas is not so serious as it was in Texas two years ago, and not by any means so serious as last year. In the first place, taken as a whole, the cattle are in much stronger condition. Most of the steers will run from fair feeder condition to fat. The cows are not emaciated, but are in just about as good condition as one expects to find them at this time of the year with calves at their sides. I saw few emaciated cattle, and none too weak to travel. Of course, there are cases in the dry-farming regions where losses have been reported. As far as the grass is concerned, the turf remains on the Montana range. In Texas I saw mile after mile where the grass had absolutely disappeared. I was told that there were areas of this nature in Montana, but, outside of a few mountain-sides, which probably always were barren, I did not see them. Of course, the feed is practically gone, but the grass plants remain, and rain will revive them with remarkable rapidity.

Again, Montana stockmen have had good calf and lamb crops. The calf crop of last spring was good, and the lamb

crop all over the Northwest was generally rated as exceeding anything ever known before. Therefore the financial position of the northwestern stockman is better than was that of his Texas brother. Of course, the northwestern man faces two very serious potential dangers. If the drought continues to the extent of drying up springs and streams, consequently cutting off the ranchman's water supply, no amount of feed can save him. He must move. It must, of course, be recognized that the northwestern ranchman faces a more severe winter situation, which will require large quantities of feed, and the short home feed supply makes this problem difficult. Certainly the movement out of a considerable quantity of stock will make the feed supply for the remainder more nearly adequate.

* * *

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 3, 1919.

The prevailing impression at present is that, so far as cattle are concerned, the crest of the emergency wave has passed. Of course, there is going to be a heavy run of cattle out of the Northwest, which, however, has very little of an abnormal character about it. There is a very strong demand for feeders in the Corn Belt, on account of large supplies of feed in that section this year. Most commission firms claim to have more orders for feeder cattle and lambs than they are able to fill. Generally speaking, the impression prevails that feeders are too high, or that they were too high before the recent drop occurred. Many big operators were holding back on this account. The spread between prices of feeders and of finished stock seems to be more normal in the case of cattle than in that of sheep; but sheep are being used so largely in the Corn Belt, especially in Iowa, to put into grain-fields, that farmers buy at a narrower margin when purchasing feeder lambs than when purchasing steers.

When I was in Montana in July, evidences of panic could be seen everywhere; but on my last trip, in August, these had vanished. No more talk was heard about banks or business houses failing, and I got the impression that people generally had been able to take stock of the situation and were able to see the outcome a little more clearly than a month before.

The drought has been more acute in Wyoming than in Montana, although not so long sustained. I found many Wyoming stockmen who were shipping out all their cattle, holding the sheep back with the expectation of getting through the winter on such feed supplies as were available. Rains that are coming now in Wyoming and Idaho will have a little effect, but not much, in improving fall and winter grazing. Montana has not yet had rain enough to do much more than fill water-holes, although the general landscape had a little more of a greenish tinge than in July.

There is a good deal of collective buying of feed going on, and we are still hammering away at the Railroad Administration for a rate on velvet beans.

Our emergency office at Billings, with Mr. C. N. Arnett in charge, will remain open as long as conditions warrant. We are calling in our men from the central markets, but the Committee on Live Stock Drought Relief will not cease to keep in close touch with the situation until its services are no longer necessary.

Two developments are worth watching—namely, the movement of range stock to Texas and New Mexico, and the movement of cattle and sheep to northern Wisconsin and Michigan. The stock which is going to the Southwest should be valuable for stocking up that country next year; and the movement of stock to Michigan and Wisconsin will doubtless be the nucleus of a considerable live-stock producing industry in that section.

GEORGE M. ROMMEL,
Chief, Animal Husbandry Division,
Bureau of Animal Industry.

MEAT-PACKING LEGISLATION SHOULD BE PASSED

EUREKA, KAN., August 5, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

The members of the Greenwood County Live Stock Association have read with great concern, but little surprise, the denunciation by the St. Louis commission merchants of the Kendrick and Kenyon bills, and all other measures for the regulation of the packers. St. Louis once denounced Roosevelt for his efforts to make packing-houses sanitary. The St. Louis commission merchant is more to be pitied than censured. He lives in a packer-owned exchange building. His pens and his rights to operate are packer-given, not God-given. He weighs on packer scales, operated by packer weigh-masters.

Mr. Heinemann, secretary of the National Live Stock Exchange, has recently returned from Washington. In a two-column article, sugar-coated and seductive, he states that the effect of the pending legislation in Washington will bring great woe upon the producer. From this article one would think that the packers and Mr. Heinemann are hostile to this legislation only because of the wrong about to be wreaked upon the disorganized live-stock raisers. He sheds tears that would make a crocodile embarrassed.

In his passionate appeal to the wisdom of Congress, Mr. Heinemann forgets that the American National Live Stock Association, the Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, and the associations of other states have unequivocally gone on record in favor of the Kendrick bill. He forgets that the stockmen of the country are lobbying and telegraphing and writing, and the pious are praying, for the enactment of this measure which he declares to be so destructive to the live-stock industry.

This association believes that these servile appeals from the stock-yards should only hasten early enactment of the proposed legislation. Commission merchants should not be obliged to rent their offices, and use the scales and pens and barns, and be compelled to fawn for favors, from the men to whom they sell. We believe a commission man should be allowed his independence of speech and action, and a right to sell and buy on neutral soil. Packer-owned stock-yards, besides being exceedingly profitable, give the packer owner an unjustifiable advantage over other buyers and over all sellers. The packer, with this ownership, can yard and weigh as he chooses, and obtain such shrinks as his purse desires. He can control the alleys and scales, and the deliveries to other buyers. He has the stock-yard deposits to influence bankers. His ownership gives him political and voting strength. He has the pens and the offices with which to correct and coerce insubordinate merchants and to reward submissive dealers. He has the inside information on all cattle en route or re-routed. The stock-yard books give him much information regarding the business of his competitors, and let him know of the coming and going of all patrons. The packer owns both ends and the middle.

This association realizes regretfully that a few cattlemen, out of many hundred interviewed, have testified favorably to the packer. Ninety per cent of all interviews are in favor of the Kenyon or Kendrick bill; but these interviews are withheld in this hostile propaganda being waged to stampede Congress. "Don't kill the goose that laid the golden egg!" they say. But the goose hasn't laid. It isn't the packers who lay golden eggs. When they do lay, it's lemons.

Men and communities who are losing \$10 to \$20 per head on cows, and \$20 to \$40 on steers, or who are shipping them home from market, cannot pay debts and continue business on adages or chimerical golden eggs. The bankers who are wiring Washington to destroy all legislation, and who are dragging interviews from intimidated borrowers, are the same bankers

who put the skids under the Borland resolution. This association feels that the Kenyon and Kendrick legislation works no injury to the great packing industry. Government supervision of national banks has kept many families from ruin, and prevented many bankers from fleeing to Canada. Banks enjoy the same confidence and respect, under strict supervision, that the packing industry would inherit if similarly guarded.

The anger of the packer toward this legislation is not well founded, provided his business will survive inspection. The great insurance companies were obliged to submit to state supervision and law. Insurance now is a safe, sound, and nationally respected business. Kansas compelled the railroads, almost by strong-arm methods, to stay out of politics, to establish a two-cent rate, to abandon the pass system, to equalize freight rates, and otherwise to observe the right of everyone to life, liberty, and prosperity; and the railroads prospered amazingly under this "Populistic" legislation. During Roosevelt's administration, packing-houses were placed under governmental sanitary supervision—a very necessary procedure. This control was rigorously opposed by packer and live-stock industry alike. Government sanitary supervision gave prestige to American meat, both at home and abroad. The packers were benefited by that regulation.

This association most strongly urges the passage of the pending legislation. The time is ripe for our American Congress to ascertain which is the more powerful institution—the American packer or the American government.

JOHN A. EDWARDS.

WHY WILL STOCKMEN PULL APART INSTEAD OF TOGETHER?

DRYDEN, TEX., August 25, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

If I may through your columns respond to some direct criticisms provoked by my article "Contrasting Stockmen and Packers," particularly in regard to price-making, published in the August number of THE PRODUCER, permit me to suggest that, despite arbitrary measures by, and direct profit to, the packers, it is at least a question whether both producers and consumers do not participate in benefits, and whether conditions of wide influence resulting from the packers' methods have not included marketing facilities for both producers and consumers at home and abroad beyond what could exist if their immense and manifold business was distributed among scattered small plants which, detached, could not possibly exercise the substantial advantages of large combinations.

As is suggested, it may be to the advantage of some home interests to withdraw for the present from Europe, but to be crowded out is not palatable; and if, as is reported, Great Britain has asked New Zealand to help the British government fight the sale of American meat in London, through whom can such American interests be better championed than by the strongly equipped organization of packers; and, in the absence of such, how would American interests fare in such competition? Possibly stockmen are disposed to get behind the packers in such contention. It is poor policy to "get out of the frying-pan into the fire," and hobbling efficiency in any line cannot produce benefits.

The force of organization is now more than ever felt, both for good and for evil. Apparently it is only by such that anything important is brought about; and we seem to have reached the point where, for both aggression and protection, organization is not only desirable, but essential. Even a League of Nations looms up as requisite. When and to what degree stockmen will recognize and conform to these conditions remains to be seen. Acting as units to the extent which they do, little can result.

Observe the fruit-growers—what they accomplish for their

protection, particularly in price-making. Where would they be but for concerted action? Against a 100 per cent advance in most commodities during the past five years, range cattle have advanced only 50 per cent, stockmen passively sitting by for buyers to bid them up.

As another example and comparison: In this territory of southwestern Texas the labor employed is largely Mexican. This applies alike to railroads and ranchmen, the latter requiring the larger number. The railroads advance nothing until earned, and observe their established methods for paying. The ranchmen have no established method of this character, but compete with each other, and cannot secure a Mexican without a liberal, unwarranted advance of wages. Even the Mexicans have more co-operation than the stockmen, and so place the stockmen at another disadvantage. With the stockmen it is in this respect as in others, "everyone for himself, and the devil take the hindmost."

Throughout the country live-stock producers have associations, little and big, classified and miscellaneous, more or less well conducted, and seemingly equipped to co-operate for much-needed reforms and benefits—strong enough to become a mighty power if consolidated as members of, and operating through, one national association representing this great interest and maintained with requisite funds, ability, and efforts, and conducted, like the packers' organizations, by well-paid, able, experienced men, competent to handle matters practically and to get results, as becomes the magnitude of such interests, which are as large, if not larger, and as universally important, as any within our land.

Is it not surprising that live-stock producers can delay active, forceful measures to accomplish such consolidated organization? As a body they would be stronger than the packers; why not as efficient? Instead, they conspicuously refuse to act upon their knowledge that in unity there is not only strength, but their salvation.

This is not a "dog in the manger" suggestion to "fight the packers," but simply to acquire an influential voice in their own affairs, including various matters of vast importance to which individually little thought is given, and particularly the all-important prices, loans, and rates of interest, in regard to which they now have next to no voice.

ROGER M. BASSETT.

FROM OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 31, 1919.

TO THE PRODUCER:

With President Wilson's change of gaze from foreign to domestic fields, and with the opening of hearings before the Senate Committee on Agriculture on the Kendrick-Kenyon bills for the stimulation of meat production, packer control took the center of the legislative stage during the middle of August. The President directed national attention toward the general principle upon which these bills were founded, in a brief paragraph of his message suggesting that the time has come to place under federal license all corporations engaged in interstate commerce. At the same time the big packers, assembling all their forces, prepared and launched what is admitted to be the biggest drive against regulatory legislation that the Capitol ever saw.

On behalf of the advocates of legislation, Mr. William B. Colver, chairman of the Federal Trade Commission at the time the meat-packing investigation was conducted, opened the struggle with a statement before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, reviewing the charges against the Big Five which were first made public more than a year ago. Contemporaneously the Trade Commission issued and published in pamphlet form the third part of its report, dealing chiefly with packer operation and ownership of the stock-yards. The detailed information

which the Trade Commission had assembled with regard to this feature of the problem was thereby first made available to the public.

The striking feature of Commissioner Colver's testimony was the statement that, by control of the stock-yards and division of stock purchases, the Big Five have erected an unsurpassable barrier to competition. He also assailed packer figures on profits, and charged that the producer of stock does not get the price per animal which the packer in his public statements fixes as his cost per head. Mr. Colver pointed out that from this price named by the packer there must be deducted innumerable charges for stock-yard services. Enormous profits are taken out of the animal by the packer-owned stock-yards, according to Mr. Colver, before the animal reaches the packing-house.

An utterly new development of the monopoly idea has been evolved by the big packers, according to Mr. Colver. Hitherto, he said, trusts have been content to devote themselves to gaining control of a particular industry, and it was this conception of the trust alone which has attracted the attention of the legislator. The Sherman law, the Clayton law, and the Federal Trade Commission law were all based on the thought of preserving competition in one line of business. But the packer has entered new fields, he declared, in an effort to gain control, "not of competitors in the same business and the same industry, but of competing industries." In substantiation of his statement, he presented to the committee a list of more than 750 companies dealing in everything from slaughter-houses and stock-yards to fertilizer, grain, creameries, poultry, railroads, and newspapers. He proceeded then to describe the charters which have been taken out in England by the packers, by which they are authorized to "buy, sell, or manufacture any commodity usually sold in shops."

A striking indication of the changed sentiment in the West, and particularly among stockmen, toward the Forest Service is the fact that there are now pending in Congress sixteen bills introduced by western representatives for additions to the national forests, as compared with one bill designed to forbid the further extension of the forest reserves.

Even the latter bill, introduced by Senator A. A. Jones, of New Mexico, formerly First Assistant Secretary of the Interior, is not to be interpreted strictly as being opposed to national forests; for it merely provides that hereafter no reservation in the States of New Mexico and Arizona shall be made except by act of Congress. The only effect of the bill, therefore, if adopted, would be to prevent forest extensions by executive order.

The Jones bill was passed by the Senate on August 2, although it had not been indorsed by either the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture. As a matter of fact, the latter department submitted an adverse report, while the Secretary of the Interior declined to make any recommendation.

Of the sixteen bills proposing additions to the forests, the most important was introduced by Representative French, of Idaho. It provides for the inclusion in the Idaho National Forest of approximately 1,000,000 acres in the Thunder Mountain country. This area is now entirely bounded by national forests. It is used extensively for grazing, and repeated petitions have been sent to Washington by live-stock interests for its inclusion in one or the other of the reserves. The Idaho legislature has also twice memorialized Congress to this end.

The extension was indorsed by Secretary Houston in a report to the House Committee on Public Lands on June 5, and on August 8 the bill was favorably reported to the House, where it is now awaiting action.

The other fifteen bills deal chiefly with small areas in Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, California, and Colorado. Most of these bills have been indorsed by the Department of Agriculture.

During the present year, under authority of an act introduced by Senator Kendrick, of Wyoming, at the last session, approximately 126 square miles were added to the Wyoming National Forest, and preparations are now being made by the department for the addition of approximately 500,000 acres to the Modoc National Forest of California. This addition will also be made under authority of an act passed at the last session.

Senator King's bill for the establishment of government regulation of grazing on the public domain is pending before the Senate Committee on Public Lands. No report has as yet been received from the Secretary of the Interior, and there does not seem to be any prospect for early action. Upon this measure, as upon another bill introduced by Senator King designed to transfer the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior, there is a disinclination on the part of the departments to make any expression, owing to the danger of inviting friction. In his report upon a bill introduced by Senator Jones, of Washington, to create a Department of Public Works, Secretary Lane told Congress that he did not think the heads of the departments should be called upon to make reports regarding the transfer of bureaus and duties from one department to another. He did say, however, that in his judgment there should be a reorganization of the departments, and frankly stated that there are now several bureaus in the Department of the Interior which he thought might be handled advantageously by other departments.

The Jones bill provides for the creation of a Department of Public Works to take the place of the Department of the Interior. Under its terms, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Public Roads would be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the new department, as would the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Bureau of Standards from the Department of Commerce, the Supervising Architect's office from the Department of the Treasury, and the River and Harbor Construction Division from the Department of War. The Patent Office, Bureau of Pensions, Bureau of Education, and Bureau of Indian Affairs, now in the Department of the Interior, would be transferred to other executive branches.

Although the soldier land-settlement bill urged by Secretary Lane, and introduced at the present session by Republican Floor Leader Mondell, has been favorably reported by the House Committee on Public Lands, there is now every indication that it cannot pass without a close struggle. Opposition has been increasing, particularly in the East. House leaders predict that important amendments will be necessary before the measure will gain congressional approval. In its present form, the bill lays the foundation for colonization of the arid, swamp, and cut-over lands. Suggested amendments would permit soldiers to take advantage of the general terms of the bill without being obliged to enter any colonization project.

Under the terms of the bills introduced in the Senate by Senator Smoot and in the House by Congressman Taylor, of Colorado, minors of the age of eighteen years and over will be permitted to make homestead entry on the condition that such entrymen shall not be permitted to make final proof or to receive a patent until having reached the age of twenty-four years. The bill was indorsed by the Secretary of the Interior, passed by the Senate, and, after having been favorably reported by the House Committee on Public Lands, is now on the House calendar awaiting action.

Senator Kendrick's bill amending the stock-raising homestead act so as to abolish all distinction between methods of making proof on contiguous and non-contiguous additional entries, has likewise passed the Senate and is now awaiting action on the House calendar.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

NATION-WIDE DRIVE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF LIVE STOCK

BANISH SCRUB SIRES FROM UNITED STATES

With confidence that better live stock will bring satisfaction and many benefits to its owners, I invite the concerted action of farmers, stockmen, and others in banishing scrub sires from the United States. The widespread use of inferior male breeding animals has been for many years a cause of low production per animal and of needlessly poor quality.

The continuance of such conditions is uneconomic and unnecessary. The direct and practical means of improvement is to use breeding animals, especially sires, which are true representatives of breeds developed for a definite useful purpose.

I am confident, too, that the public, knowing production to be performed with maximum efficiency, will look upon stock-raising with increased respect and understanding. In a few localities noteworthy improvement in special lines has been taking place through individual and community efforts. Let us now hasten such improvement wherever live stock is kept in the United States.

J. R. MOHLER,

Chief, Bureau of Animal Industry.

OCTOBER 1 has been fixed as the date for the opening of the active campaign for the improvement of live stock in the United States planned by the Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the state agricultural colleges and other agencies interested in better domestic animals. The movement, under the slogan of "Better Sires—Better Stock," has for its object the replacement of scrub animals with pure-bred or high-grade stock, and also the improvement in quality of pure-breds themselves. It is the outgrowth of extensive investigations in this and other countries, and of a close study of what has been accomplished in this direction in more restricted areas. Officials of the department are convinced that stockmen and public opinion generally are now ready to back up the crusade.

Foremost among the means of accomplishing the improvement aimed at is the wider use of pure-bred sires. Once this has become general throughout the country, the grading-up process, it is believed, will be rapid. Experience has demonstrated that in a few generations scrub stock headed by a pure-bred male may be graded up to such an extent that in productivity it is but little inferior to pure-bred stock. Though the United States for many years has contained large numbers of the finest specimens of live stock in the world, lack of care in selecting the parent stock has resulted in the quality and productive capacity of the average American herd being below those of certain other countries. This, in the case of cattle, applies both to milk yield and to meat production.

Not a few difficulties are anticipated. Chief among these are the opposition or indifference prevailing in some quarters, the cost of pure-bred sires, and the question of controlling live-stock diseases when animals are transferred from one herd to another. But these and other obstacles will be overcome, the department believes, through the educational campaign about to be launched, and the co-operative agencies which it is intended to enroll as an important factor in the movement. Printed information will be supplied to stock-raisers, and an appropriate emblem furnished to those who agree to use only pure-bred sires.

The movement will comprise not only cattle, but all other classes of live stock—in all upward of 200,000,000 head—besides poultry.

LACK OF FUNDS COMPELS CURTAILMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

DUE TO A CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION in the grants for various lines of work contained in the Agricultural Appropriation Bill recently passed by Congress for the current fiscal year, which are approximately \$11,500,000 less than the aggregate amount available for the same purposes during the fiscal year ending June, 1919, it has become necessary for the Department of Agriculture to discontinue several of its activities and to curtail a number of others.

The heaviest reduction falls on the States Relations Service, which is the branch of the department conducting extension work in co-operation with agricultural colleges, experiment stations, and other agencies. The Bureau of Markets, as previously mentioned in THE PRODUCER, likewise has suffered a serious diminution of its allowance, compelling it to restrict or entirely abandon much of its emergency work. No funds have been provided for the continuation of the city market reporting service. The market-news service on live stock and meats, dairy products, etc., has been greatly reduced. All the leased wires in the South have been cut off, and those west of Denver will shortly be eliminated. The number of field stations has been decreased.

Compared with other years, the number of new projects provided for is small. A diminutive appropriation of \$9,000 is granted to the Bureau of Chemistry for the continuation of investigations in methods of utilizing wool-scouring wastes, begun in the fall of 1918, and which may ultimately mean millions to the country. More liberal allowance has been made for the development of the domestic dye industry, the importance of which was thrown into such bold relief by the war.

Among the new items is one appropriating \$100,000 for exhibits by the Department of Agriculture at state and interstate fairs. The sum of \$35,000 is given the Bureau of Markets for completing the work of the Domestic Wool Section of the War Industries Board and enforcing the regulations for handling the 1918 wool clip.

Provision is made for the establishment of a market-news service on peanuts; for the control of the European corn-borer, now spreading rapidly in the East; for the investigation of insects affecting truck crops, especially the sweet-potato weevil, which of late has become a serious menace in the South; for additional fire protection in national forests, the urgency of which recent events have emphasized; for the prevention of the spread of flag smut and other cereal diseases; for the development of the nut industry; for the erection of a plant-detection and inspection station at Washington; and for continuation of the work of improving the quality of Irish seed potatoes.

Inspection of horse meat is provided for, \$100,000 being set aside for this purpose. Tuberculosis-eradication work has had its allowance materially increased, \$1,000,000 of the \$1,500,000 voted for this purpose being for payment of indemnities. For investigations and experiments in animal husbandry \$327,680 has been appropriated, and the sum of \$20,000 is to be devoted to investigating the production of salt pork in the southern states.

OVERCHARGES BY LIVE-STOCK COMMISSION FIRMS DISCLOSED

IN THE COURSE OF ITS SUPERVISION over live-stock markets under the Food Control Act, the Department of Agriculture has been investigating the practices of live-stock commission firms licensed under that act. In a number of instances overcharges by such firms on feed furnished by them in the stock-yards to their patrons' consignments of stock have been disclosed at some of the largest live-stock market centers as a result of audits made by accountants of the Bureau of Markets stock-yard supervision service. These overcharges, in some cases, have amounted to many thousands of dollars annually.

One large commission firm recently was required to restore to its consignors more than \$20,000, representing such overcharges made by it since January 1, 1918. A number of firms, insisting that these amounts in their own cases accumulated without any knowledge or wilful intent on their part, but by reason of the method of doing business in the stock-yards, and not claiming the money as their own, have assured the department of their willingness to remit to their shippers on an equitable pro-rata basis. Arrangements to that effect are now in progress.

Others have refused to adjust the overcharges in this manner, and notices have been served upon such firms that, unless they make proper restitution to their shippers, their licenses will be suspended or revoked, as the circumstances may warrant. Six of these firms at Chicago on which these notices were served applied to the United States District Court for an injunction restraining the Secretary of Agriculture from revoking or suspending their licenses. A temporary injunction was granted, pending a hearing to be held at Chicago on September 15.

FOREST-FIRE SITUATION STILL CRITICAL

THE FOREST-FIRE SITUATION in the West has been so critical that the Forest Service has incurred a deficit of approximately two million dollars in attempting to prevent the spread of the flames. Practically the entire attention of the Forest Service during the past summer has been concentrated on this problem. The situation is still serious, according to United States Forester H. S. Graves, who, in a report to the Secretary of Agriculture, outlines the condition as follows:

"The most dangerous situation today is on the undeveloped forests on the west side of the Bitterroot Mountains. We have some danger points elsewhere in Idaho and Montana, but the chief difficulty on the west slopes is the absence of trails and roads, and the fact that fires set by lightning are apt to become conflagrations before it is possible to meet them.

"While there have been some serious fires in Oregon and Washington, the situation has not so far been as difficult as in the Inland Empire. If the present drought continues, however, we may expect a hard fight both in eastern Oregon and Washington and on the west slope.

"California has also been very dry, there having been a light snowfall last winter. Serious fires are already breaking out in a number of forests throughout the state.

"In portions of Wyoming and Colorado there have been a very dry period and serious fires. Bad fires are burning on the Bighorn, and the situation is serious.

"The Southwest and East have been comparatively safe on account of rains."

Lightning has been the greatest single cause of the fires, according to Mr. Graves.

REGULATIONS FOR TRADE IN TUBERCULAR CATTLE

THE REGULATION PROHIBITING, after July 1, 1919, the interstate movement of cattle for breeding or dairy purposes unless they are properly tuberculin-tested will prove to be a long step toward the control of tuberculosis and its eventual eradication in this country, according to officials of the Department of Agriculture.

The object of the regulation is specifically to prevent the interstate shipment of diseased animals to cattle-breeders or dairymen who are trying to drive out or keep tuberculosis from their herds. Cattle consigned to a public stock-yard, and steers and strictly range cattle, may be moved interstate without restriction under the new regulation.

Cattle known to be tubercular may be moved interstate for immediate slaughter under federal inspection. They must be marked for identification; must be accompanied by a certificate showing their condition, that they may be shipped interstate, and the purpose for which they are shipped; transportation companies must identify the cattle as tubercular on way-bills and other papers; cars or boat compartments in which they are moved must be cleaned and disinfected under bureau regulations; and the cattle must not be transported in cars or boat compartments containing healthy cattle or hogs, unless the latter are for immediate slaughter.

Pure-bred cattle which have been shipped interstate for breeding or feeding purposes, and which have reacted to the tuberculin test subsequent to such shipment, may be reshipped interstate upon proper certificate for purposes other than slaughter, provided they are consigned to the original owner at the same point of origin; the reshipment must be made within four months of the original shipment; they shall not be shipped to any state or territory that does not provide for quarantine of tubercular cattle; they cannot again be shipped interstate except for immediate slaughter under government inspection; requirements of identification and disinfection must be observed.

Heifers may be moved interstate for feeding or grazing on certification that they will not be used for other purposes, and cows may be shipped interstate from public stock-yards on affidavit to the same effect. Bulls may be shipped from public stock-yards for feeding, provided the owner or shipper makes affidavit that they are for feeding only, and the state to which they are shipped provides for quarantine.

Cattle from a herd officially accredited as free from tuberculosis may be shipped interstate if accompanied by official certificates showing they are from such herd.

Tuberculin tests for the detection of tuberculosis may be made by veterinary inspectors of the Bureau of Animal Industry at public stock-yards or regular bureau stations, or by a veterinarian of the state of origin, authorized by the state and approved by the Bureau of Animal Industry.

FIRST TUBERCULOSIS CONFERENCE

THE FIRST CONFERENCE ever held in this country for the exclusive study of tuberculosis in animals has been called by Dr. Mohler, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, to be held in Chicago October 6-8, in connection with the National Dairy Show. The conference will be attended by federal and state officials and veterinarians interested in the control of tuberculosis, and has for its purpose the discussion of various phases of the tuberculosis-eradication campaign.

TUBERCULOSIS-ERADICATION WORK IN JULY

IN THE MONTH OF JULY, 35,172 cattle, belonging to 2,591 herds, were tested for tuberculosis by officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry in co-operation with forty-two states. Of this number, 1,567, or 4.45 per cent, reacted.

MR. OUSLEY RESIGNS

CLARENCE OUSLEY, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, left the Department of Agriculture July 31. Mr. Ousley gave as his reasons that he had finished the work for which he came to the department during the war, and that he could no longer afford to hold public office.

At the request of Secretary Houston, Mr. Ousley came to the Department of Agriculture in the summer of 1917. At that time he was State Director of Extension in Texas. During the war he handled a number of the most important war activities of the department, including farm-labor problems and the supervision of informational campaigns to increase food production. He has proved an efficient public servant.

MONTHLY LIVE-STOCK CENSUS TO BE INAUGURATED

A MONTHLY ESTIMATE of the number of domestic animals in the United States is planned by the Department of Agriculture, to replace the annual live-stock census now in vogue. This new enumeration, which will be under the direction of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, will be made for each of the three thousand agricultural counties, instead of, as hitherto, by states. It will show, not only the number of animals, but their age and sex; whether they are pure-breds, grades, or scrubs; what proportion is breeding stock, what growing stock, and what marketable stuff.

Included in the enlarged plans is also a system of frequent reports on meat production and crop conditions throughout the country.

EXCESS PROFITS ON WOOL TO BE RETURNED

DISTRIBUTION TO WOOL-GROWERS of excess profits made by dealers will begin in the near future, according to an announcement by the Department of Agriculture, which is completing the work of the Domestic Wool Section of the War Industries Board. Reports show that excess profits were made by about 10 per cent of the "country" dealers. Correspondence with dealers at "distributing centers," whose total reports are not yet completed, indicates that some of them have accumulated substantial amounts of excess profits on the wool which they actually bought. Auditing of the accounts of the larger dealers will require several months. The Bureau of Markets, which is acting for the Department of Agriculture in this work, will inclose with each check sent to a grower a circular letter giving the name of the firm which handled his wool.

Attention is called to the fact that the regulations of the War Industries Board did not permit the purchase of wool in the great wool-growing states of the Rocky Mountain and Pacific coast region, except in the case of clips of less than 1,000 pounds each. All larger clips were required to be consigned. This region produces nearly two-thirds of the entire wool clip of the country, which was about 257,000,000 pounds in 1918.

RECEIPTS FROM NATIONAL FORESTS

NET RECEIPTS from the national forests for the year ending June 30, 1919, reached a total of \$4,358,414.86, representing an increase of \$783,484.79 over the previous year and setting a record in receipts. There has been a gradual increase in receipts from the \$757,813.01 collected in 1906, when supervision of the national forests was placed under the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture.

The postmaster-general of Sweden is in this country to study the United States mail service. What a service they must have in Sweden!—*Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET SITUATION AT CLOSE OF AUGUST

[BY JAMES E. POOLE]

CHICAGO, ILL., September 1, 1919.

CATTLE MARKET CHAOTIC

"BUSTS" AND BOOMS follow in quick succession at the live-stock market, but breaks are always more emphatic than bulges. The talent is still hazy regarding intrinsic values. Asked for an opinion as to market conditions, a salesman who usually has definite ideas said recently: "Damfino, and I don't believe anyone else does." From the low spot in July to the high point in August, cattle values advanced about \$4 per cwt.; then went over the precipice to locate a well-greased toboggan slide. High spot for the year was \$20.35. From that lofty altitude choice cattle subsided to \$15.25; then gradually advanced until \$19.35 was paid the third week of August. Meanwhile, to paraphrase Finnegan's "off again, on again" expression, prices moved up and down in bewildering fashion. Blame cannot be attributed to packers, who were as much at sea as stockyard traders and producers. It has been a treacherous, feverish set of markets, on a quicksand footing, the same grades of bullocks selling 50 cents to \$1 per cwt. apart on the same sessions. Commission salesmen with split shipments have displayed signs of nervous prostration. Buyers acquiring such split shipments of practically the same kind of cattle at prices 75 cents to \$1 apart have been called on the carpet and admonished that their reputations, if not their jobs, were in danger. Alternately the market has been congested or bare of food cattle, surfeited with trash or stinted. Speculation, both in the country and at the market, has literally run riot. A. B. Stickney, when asked if the common stock of the Chicago & Great Western road was good for anything, replied: "Yes, it is good for the boys in Wall Street to gamble with." By the same token, cattle, hogs, and sheep are serving the same purpose. On every bulge the country is imbued with speculative frenzy, the result being that prices realized at the market are frequently below country cost. Market papers quote trade so much higher or lower from day to day, when no living man is competent to express an exact opinion. Yard traders deceived by a one-day scramble by packer buyers for a certain grade of cattle have grabbed the entire supply of that kind the next session, only to find that they have acquired a stack of gold bricks.

After the \$4 rise in cattle hereinbefore referred to, an abrupt decline of \$2 was recorded. Feeders who nursed the market by holding cattle back during the period of depression endeavored to unload in one week when they attempted to clean up. Transportation handicaps, due to the shopmen's strike, added to the tribulation resulting from two weeks of race rioting which put Chicago's killing facilities out of commission. A threatened August inundation of western cattle was averted by belated rain in some sections, transfer of distressed cattle to pastures elsewhere, and resentment of a bargain sale, resulting in a \$2 advance. Western values have been reasonably stable compared with native grassers—always an uncertain selling proposition at this season.

Early September found the cattle market chaotic, if not demoralized. Late in August grassers were without a recognized selling basis—a condition due to psychological causes, nationwide agitation for reduction of living cost playing havoc with

dressed-beef trade. Exploitation and profiteering by retailers convinced the ultimate consumer that he was a victim of both petty and grand larceny; whereupon he balked, taking the stereotyped method of curtailing purchases. Simultaneously a heavy run of grass cattle filled eastern branch-house coolers, knocking the bottom out of the trade.

Commission houses have been besieged with inquiry as to what is likely to happen. Whenever fat cattle advance, feeders respond by taking light cattle greedily; but in every break they countermand orders. That the entire territory east of the Missouri River is short of stock cattle cannot be disputed, affording an excellent reason why feeders and fat ones are out of line. In paying anywhere from \$14 to \$16 per cwt. for fleshy feeders, beef-makers are acting on their own initiative, as all the advice emanating from commission-house sources is to let them alone. All things considered, stock-cattle trade has been phenomenally healthy, indicating that feeders either are imbued with confidence or are disposed to take long chances. But for an August dry spell, which prevented the usual growth of aftermath, feeder demand would have been even stronger. The territory east of the Missouri River has bought both thin and fleshy cattle, and will continue to do so, as demand for cheap beef is comparatively healthy.

Early September found the visible supply of corn-fed cattle reduced to small volume, confident prediction of a \$20 market being made. At this season packers are not averse to paying high prices for a few loads of bullocks, as it stimulates interest in the feeding game, and they can average up by taking it off grassers. So scarce was food beef at the Missouri River late in August that Kansas City quoted fat cattle higher than Chicago. Speculators took their cue from this, bidding high on such cattle as they could locate, only to find them in strong hands. A Wisconsin grazer telephoned his commission man one day that he had refused an offer of \$17.50 for a drove of plain cattle running in his pasture, asking for an opinion. "All I have to say is that it was a case of two fools meeting," replied the commission man. As a lot of sappy steers have gone into Illinois and Iowa from Kansas pastures, it is probable that enough good cattle will materialize during the October-to-December period to go around. Verily, the fascination of any game is in the uncertainty of the draw.

Interruption of the range-cattle movement by transportation handicaps has been followed by a full movement, but anything wearing beef has found a buyer. A few western cattle have sold at \$15 to \$16; the bulk at \$10.50 to \$14, with a conspicuous feeder end selling below \$11. Omaha and St. Paul have caught a lot of northwestern stuff that normally would have gone to Chicago, owing to rail perils and a desire to get the money in the bank at the earliest possible moment. Most of these cattle show the effects of climatic vicissitude, lacking 100 to 150 pounds seasonal weight and carrying only lean meat. Montana and Wyoming have been the principal contributors, both states complaining of inadequate railroad facilities. The August bargain sale at the market prompted owners of distressed cattle to seek other grass in self-defense; but, if reports are to be given credence, cattle so shifted have done little good. Few of them, in the opinion of A. E. de Ricques, will return to their former pastures. Psychologically, cattlemen in the drought area are in better condition, but physical conditions have not improved, a heavy September and October movement being assured. Montana is unloading female stock in a free-handed manner, and the bull market has been paralyzed by a deluge of range stock.

HOGS ON THE DOWN GRADE

Prior to the war a 50-cent break or bulge in the hog market provoked protest; nowadays that market goes up or down \$2 to \$3 per cwt. without arousing comment. When a \$23.65 top

was registered in August, the deal was obviously top-heavy, a bear raid putting good hogs down to \$20.50, from which it reacted to \$21.65, only to slide down-hill as though everything had been greased for the occasion. Usually September records the high level of the season, but this year this is improbable. Late in August packers started a vigorous bear campaign that put packing hogs down to \$18, promising vigorous prosecution, with \$15 as their objective point. The advance guard of the new crop will show up in October, when a semi-lucid idea of winter happenings will be possible. Exports have declined in volume, packers having accumulated an immense quantity of meats and lard at European distributing points, which they are endeavoring to sell at inflated prices, Germany not having displayed a disposition to replenish its depleted larder regardless of cost. That hogs will sell lower next winter is a foregone conclusion; how much lower will be a matter for conjecture until the market is made. Rumor of pig-crop decimation is audible, being reflected in a broad demand for stock pigs; but the trade is confident that production has responded to war prices, and that there will be plenty of hogs to go around next winter.

SHEEP AT LOWER LEVEL

Until late in August no serious complaint over market conditions was heard among sheep-raisers; but when good western lambs reached an \$18 to \$18.25 basis the inevitable happened—a flood of medium and common natives deluging all eastern markets, breaking prices anywhere from \$1.50 to \$2 per cwt. Within a few days choice western lambs dropped below \$17, the great mass of medium and common natives selling at \$9 to \$12—prices that do not represent cost of production. Fortunately for the western flock-master, Iowa developed a hunger for thin range lambs at \$14.50 to \$15.50, which saved the bacon, as little or no contracting has been done in the West; Colorado feeders, as was the case last year, emulating the policy of the small boy who was sent for sour milk and, finding nothing but sweet milk available, decided to wait until it had soured. Omaha has acquired leadership as a sheep market, the bulk of the thin western stock stopping there, as Iowa farmers pay more for feeding lambs than those in Chicago territory. Iowa has successively distanced Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois as the heaviest purchaser of thin western sheep and lambs, and this year will probably handle a larger number than Colorado.

September and October will probably be low months in live-mutton trade, as the dry area in the Northwest must liquidate freely. Hay hogs, profiteering at the expense of the sheepman, are aggravating the situation, the probability being that they will queer their own game, as sheepmen, given no alternative but liquidation, will not be hay-purchasers. As a good corn prospect has developed, farmer feeders will be heavy buyers of thin western sheep and lambs until snow flies, stock cattle being high and the present margin between thin and fat muttons attractive.

HIDES TO BE CHEAPER

Hides have slumped, still lower prices impending. As in the case of meats, a hue-and-cry has been raised that packers, tanners, and shoemakers are profiteering; the public is patronizing the cobbler instead of paying what would have bought a suit of clothes before the war for a pair of new shoes, tanners have shut down in preference to following an advancing hide market; and, as Europe is getting access to South American and Australian hides, still lower levels for the domestic product may be safely prognosticated.

HORSE TRADE LIVELY

Exporters have been playing the horse game, despite the risk created by adverse exchange rates and high transport charges, paying \$200 to \$325 for drafters to go to France and Belgium. The horse market has gone on a drafter basis permanently, with a prospect of scarcity of such stock a few years

hence, as breeding has been largely abandoned in the central states. There is no future for the small, range-bred horses outside a newly created sphere by Dakota farmers who are skinning them and using the meat for hog feed in place of tankage, for which packers charge \$105 per ton.

WOOL VALUES STABLE

Wool values are stable, although it is a two-sided market, only fine and fine medium grades having an established basis. Eventually wools grading below half-blood must come into their own, but the craze for fine goods is running its course. England, in control of the bulk of the world's supply, is acting niggardly with the United States, especially in the case of fine wools—obviously for the purpose of preventing Germany from getting access to needed raw material. Western growers are not interested, however, in current prices, as they have disposed of practically the entire 1919 clip. By the time that of 1920 is ready to leave the sheep's back, more or less logical argument justifying prices will have been concocted by dealers whose chief stronghold is Boston.

TRADE IN STOCKERS AND FEEDERS LIVELY

[BY SAMUEL SOSLAND]

KANSAS CITY, Mo., August 25, 1919.

CONSIDERING THE CAUTIOUSNESS engendered by agitation over food prices, the active season in the stocker and feeder cattle trade in Kansas City—the largest distributor of this class of stock in the United States—has made a fairly favorable start. Iowa and Illinois feeders are heavy buyers of both stocker and feeder cattle, but it is noticeable that they are taking smaller lots individually and haggling more over prices. Thus far the buyers have paid prices practically the same as a year ago; but, with packers buying grass steers at lower quotations, it is unlikely, according to the prevailing opinion, that the coming month will witness the top of \$13.80 recorded on stockers in September a year ago.

Many new Iowa and Illinois buyers are in the market. Many mail orders are on file from these states, but the majority call for purchases at lower prices than now prevail. Thus an Illinois banker-feeder sent an order to Kansas City, at the opening of August, for two loads of a good grade of stockers at \$8. When the order was received, the cattle were bringing around \$10.50. A few days ago this buyer made inquiry as to the disposition of his order, and was told the stock he desires is still worth \$9.50. A liberal number of mail orders for feeding cattle are reported from the two big feeding states at \$12 to \$12.50, but the grades wanted at these prices are now quoted up to \$13.50. A strong preference prevails for the better grades.

Iowa and Illinois have made the most favorable showing as buyers, relatively speaking, thus far this season. Inquiries are reported from South Dakota for cattle for wintering purposes, but it is doubted if that state and Nebraska will take so many stockers as a year ago, owing to the unusual movement from the drought areas of the Northwest. States east of Illinois are expected to be good buyers. It is early for general Kansas buying. The Sunflower State has much roughage, but her corn crop will yield hardly 75,000,000 bushels. Still, this will exceed the 1918 harvest by 30,000,000 bushels. Losses of \$10 to \$30 a head on thousands of cattle purchased in the spring and grazed since in Kansas are tending to make that state a hesitant buyer to invest wheat money in cattle later in the season. Western \$300,000,000 wheat crop, and farmers of the state are expected to invest wheat money in cattle later in the season. Western Kansas is in an excellent position to carry cattle, but there is some nervousness there over wintering on account of the heavy mortality from severe weather early this year. Texas is in excellent shape on the whole, and is not pushing cattle to market, the Panhandle movement being slower than expected.

With the exception of the Panhandle of Texas, which is marketing cattle heavier than last year, the percentage of stockers and feeders in the runs is fully as large as at this time in 1918. The great pasture districts of Kansas and Oklahoma, which are now unloading, had excessive moisture for grass early in the season, and recently the weather has been too dry for the best gains on cattle. A liberal number of dry-weather shipments are coming from the Northwest, including Oregon.

Prices on stockers and feeders are quoted from \$8 to \$15.50, with good to choice feeders at \$10.50 to \$13.50. Common to fair stockers rule between \$8 and \$10.50, and stock calves are worth \$8 to \$12.50, with only a few of the choicest offerings at the top figure. Stock cows are quoted at \$6 to \$8, the common grades being around \$6. Packers are paying \$10 to \$12 for the bulk of the grassers now coming from Kansas and Oklahoma, these prices being on steers purchased last spring for summer grazing. On these cattle grazers are experiencing the heaviest losses—\$10 to \$30 a head. A year ago the same cattle brought \$2 to \$3 more than at present. Kansas-wintered grass cattle are bringing \$13 to \$16, weighing from 1,150 to 1,300 pounds. The \$10 to \$12 grassers weigh from 900 to 1,050 pounds.

In the months of September, October, and November last year the Kansas City market shipped out 474,411 stocker and feeder cattle, against 404,028 in the same period in 1917. It is expected that receipts will be sufficient here in the next three months to permit the market to exceed the record total of 1918 in the output of stockers and feeders.

HIDE MARKET DECLINING

LARGE CLEARANCE SALES of packer hides at prices some 20 per cent lower than those of previous sales were the principal feature of the week ending September 6. About 160,000 hides were involved in this transaction. The impression prevails that it will be followed by a steadier market and greater activity. Following are the prices obtained at Chicago, compared with those for the corresponding week in 1918:

	Price per Pound (Cents)	
	1919	1918
Spready steers	43-45	31
Heavy native steers	42	30
Heavy Texas steers	40	28
Light Texas steers	40	27
Colorados	39	27
Branded cows	40	23
Heavy native cows	50	28
Light native cows	50	24
Native bulls	34-35	21½
Branded bulls	31-32	19½
Calfskins (country)	60-80	34-44

STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of holdings of frozen and cured meats on August 1, 1919, compared with July 1, 1919, and August 1, 1918, as announced by the Bureau of Markets:

Commodity	August 1, 1919 (Pounds)	July 1, 1919 (Pounds)	August 1, 1918 (Pounds)
Frozen beef	159,688,425	162,638,789	172,321,920
Cured beef	30,921,213	29,244,319	28,128,221
Lamb and mutton	7,301,320	7,278,826	3,057,493
Frozen pork	134,695,588	155,263,362	87,034,543
Dry salt pork	366,127,507	381,736,178	370,255,601
Pickled pork	382,443,642	422,387,012	366,177,387
Lard	98,915,093	92,131,516	102,298,512
Miscellaneous	85,896,609	89,641,671	77,591,505

The slight discrepancy between the July figures as given above and those published in last month's PRODUCER is due to the fact that the above totals comprise the estimated holdings of storages not reporting, which were not included in last month's table.

REVIEW OF EASTERN MEAT TRADE CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5, 1919

Boston, New York, and Philadelphia

[Bureau of Markets]

GENERAL MARKET CONDITIONS

With trade at all eastern markets quiet and generally slow, there have been no violent fluctuations in the prices. All price changes have tended toward more uniform prices at the several markets, while the unsettled conditions of the past week have mostly disappeared.

BEEF

Following Monday's holiday, the beef market at Boston showed considerable strength, and prices on all grades advanced from \$1 to \$2 per cwt. during the remainder of the week. The demand for steer beef has improved and was a factor in moving prices to a higher level. Conditions at New York have been more stable than the previous week, although trade continued slow. Tuesday's advances were well maintained on steer beef, but cows declined and closed 50 cents per cwt. below last Friday. Although a strong effort was made at Philadelphia on Tuesday to overcome the demoralized closing condition of the previous week, the opening prices were not maintained, and declines on almost all grades of beef occurred daily. Today's prices were \$1 per cwt. lower than Monday, but about in line with one week ago. There has been no improvement in the demand for bulls at any market, and, while receipts were light, there has been a general weak undertone.

VEAL

On account of light receipts, good veal held practically steady. The demand for lower grades has not been regular, and prices have been unevenly lowered. New York declines range from \$1 to \$4, while Philadelphia is \$5 per cwt. lower than Monday, and Boston steady at Monday's prices. The bulk of receipts consisted of heavy calves, and mostly of the grass-fed type.

PORK

With pork receipts light at all markets, there has been a general advance in prices on loins and shoulder cuts. Today's closing prices at New York are \$1 higher than Monday, with Boston unchanged and Philadelphia \$1 higher on some averages of loins.

LAMBS

The unsettled conditions of last week's lamb market continued through the present week, and prices today are unevenly from \$1 to \$4 lower than last Friday. Boston developed some strength toward the close, due to late buying, while other markets closed at the lowest prices for the week, with most sales forced.

MUTTON

With only a fair demand for mutton, prices at all markets have declined since Tuesday's opening, with heavy sheep and the lower grades most affected.

MARKET CLOSING

New York closed steady on beef and better grades of lambs. Pork closed firm. Veal, mutton, and low-grade lambs closed dull, with strong effort being made to clean up. Boston cleaned up early in the day, with undertone strong on all meats except lambs. Philadelphia closed slow and dull on beef and lambs, but cleaned up fairly well. Veal closed in a demoralized condition, with considerable carry-over. Pork closed firm, and mutton closed slow and weak, with some carry-over.

OPENING AND CLOSING WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED FRESH MEAT

For Week Ending September 5, 1919

[Bureau of Markets]

BOSTON

BEEF

STEERS:	
Choice	\$22.00-
Good	19.00-21.00
Medium	17.00-18.50
Common	15.00-16.50
COWS:	
Medium	\$13.50-14.00
Common	12.50-13.00
BULLS:	
Common	\$ 8.00- 9.00

LAMB AND MUTTON

LAMBS:	
Choice	\$24.00-
Good	22.00-23.00
Medium	21.00-22.00
Common	19.00-20.00
YEARLINGS:	
Good	\$16.00-17.00
Medium	14.00-15.00
Common	12.00-13.00
MUTTON:	
Good	\$12.00-13.00
Medium	11.00-12.00
Common	10.00-11.00

NEW YORK

STEERS:		LAMBS:	
Choice	\$21.00-22.00	Choice	\$21.00-23.00
Good	19.00-21.00	Good	18.00-20.00
Medium	16.00-18.00	Medium	15.00-17.00
Common	12.00-15.00	Common	12.00-14.00
COWS:		YEARLINGS:	
Medium	\$12.50-14.00	Medium	\$16.00-17.00
Common	11.00-12.00	MUTTON:	
BULLS:		Good	\$14.00-16.00
Common	\$10.00-11.00	Medium	12.00-14.00
		Common	10.00-12.00

LIVE-STOCK MARKET REPORT, SEPTEMBER 11, 1919

[Bureau of Markets]

HOGS

	CHICAGO	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA
Top	\$18.00	\$17.35	\$16.25
Bulk of Sales		15.00-17.00	15.25-15.75
Heavy Wt., Med. to Ch.	15.50-17.50	15.00-16.50	15.65-16.00
Medium Wt., Med. to Ch.	16.50-18.00	15.00-17.25	15.75-16.25
Light Wt., Com. to Ch.	16.75-18.00	14.75-17.35	15.50-16.00
Light Lits, Com. to Ch.	16.50-17.50	14.75-16.00	
Heavy Pkg. Sows, Smooth.	14.75-15.25	14.50-15.00	15.25-15.65
Heavy Pkg. Sows, Rough.	14.00-14.50	14.00-14.50	15.00-15.25
Figs, Med. to Ch.	16.50-18.00		
Stocker Pigs, Com. to Ch.		13.00-17.50	15.00-16.00

CATTLE

BEEF STEERS:			
Med. & Hvy. Wt. (1100 lbs. up)—			
Choice and Prime.	\$15.75-17.50	\$15.75-17.75	\$15.25-17.25
Good	13.50-15.50	13.50-16.00	13.50-15.25
Medium	11.00-13.50	11.25-13.65	10.75-13.50
Common	8.75-11.00	9.35-11.60	9.75-10.75
Light Wt. (1100 lbs. down)—			
Choice and Prime.	16.00-18.00	15.50-17.75	15.00-17.50
Medium and Good.	10.75-16.00	10.00-15.75	12.00-15.00
Common	8.25-10.75	8.40-10.25	10.25-12.00
BUTCHER CATTLE:			
Heifers, Com. to Ch.	6.50-14.75	6.35-13.50	7.50-13.00
Cows, Com. to Ch.	6.25-13.50	6.15-11.50	7.25-12.00
Bulls, Bologna and Beef.	7.00-12.00	6.00- 9.25	6.00-10.50
CANNERS AND CUTTERS:			
Cows and Heifers.	5.35- 6.25	5.25- 6.15	5.00- 7.00
Canner Steers	5.75- 8.25	6.00- 8.25	
VEAL CALVES:			
Lt. & Hvy. Wt., Med. to Ch.	19.75-21.25	14.50-17.00	12.00-14.00
Heavy Wt., Com. to Ch.	7.50-12.50	7.25-13.00	8.00-12.00
FEEDER STEERS:			
Heavy Weight (1000 lbs. up)—			
Com. to Ch.	8.50-12.25	10.15-13.00	9.00-12.75
Medium Weight (800-1000 lbs.)—			
Com. to Ch.	7.50-12.00	9.35-12.65	7.75-11.25
Light Weight (800 lbs. down)—			
Com. to Ch.	7.25-10.50	9.00-12.00	7.25-10.00
STOCKER STEERS:			
Com. to Ch.	6.75-10.00	6.60-10.60	7.00-10.00
STOCKER COWS AND HEIFERS:			
Com. to Ch.	6.50- 8.00	6.25- 8.90	6.00- 9.00
STOCKER CALVES:			
Good to Ch.	9.00-10.00	8.00-10.75	8.00-10.25
Com. to Med.	8.00- 9.00	6.00- 7.75	7.00- 8.00

SHEEP

LAMBS:			
84 lbs. down—			
Med. to Prime.	\$13.75-16.00	\$12.00-15.75	\$13.75-15.65
Culls and Common.	8.00-13.50	7.25-11.50	7.50-13.50
YEARLING WETHERS:			
Med. to Prime.	10.50-12.50	9.50-11.25	8.75- 9.25
WETHERS:			
Med. to Prime.	8.50-10.50	7.25- 9.25	7.50- 9.00
EWES:			
Com. to Choice, Medium.	7.25- 8.75	6.50- 8.75	6.50- 8.25
Culls and Common.	2.50- 6.75	3.00- 6.25	2.50- 6.25
BREEDING EWES:			
Full Mouths to Yearlings.	8.25-14.50	8.00-13.75	7.50-12.50
FEEDER LAMBS:			
Med. to Ch.	12.00-14.00	12.00-13.25	10.00-13.90

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

FOLLOWING ARE TABLES showing receipts, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-three markets for the month of July, 1919, compared with July, 1918, and for the first seven months of 1919, compared with the same period last year:

RECEIPTS

	July, 1919	July, 1918	First Seven Months, 1919	First Seven Months, 1918
Cattle.....	2,019,666	2,131,870	12,313,076	12,813,819
Hogs.....	3,005,529	3,127,174	28,364,900	26,692,056
Sheep.....	2,286,453	1,638,807	10,985,506	9,160,605

TOTAL SHIPMENTS

	July, 1919	July, 1918	First Seven Months, 1919	First Seven Months, 1918
Cattle.....	715,229	685,413	4,737,868	4,807,856
Hogs.....	967,533	956,641	8,638,378	9,724,255
Sheep.....	1,088,560	750,157	4,729,939	4,260,156

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	July, 1919	July, 1918	First Seven Months, 1919	First Seven Months, 1918
Cattle.....	1,269,909	1,393,897	7,401,286	7,862,010
Hogs.....	2,023,998	2,144,044	19,645,599	17,599,295
Sheep.....	1,204,789	896,546	6,253,374	4,889,007

BUSINESS FAILURES IN JULY

REMARKABLY FAVORABLE as the monthly failure exhibits have been for a long period, reflecting the prosperous state of the country's business, the July returns make a numerical showing that is wholly without parallel since monthly statistics were first compiled. Although some time ago it was freely asserted that insolvencies probably had reached the absolute minimum, there has been an almost unbroken decline this year in commercial mortality. The number of defaults in July was 452, compared with the 485 reported in June, and the amount of liabilities was only \$5,507,010, as against the low record of \$9,482,721 for the previous month; the percentage decreases being 6.8 and 41.9, respectively. By contrast, in July, 1918—a month of relatively low mortality—there were 786 insolvencies, involving an amount of \$9,789,572.

On this showing *Dun's Review* comments thus:

"That practically nine months after the armistice, with the far-reaching business readjustments which the changed international conditions have necessitated, commercial failures should fall to a total never before recorded, is an economic phenomenon that few people, if any, had counted on; and the exhibit seems all the more noteworthy when the steady increase in number of new enterprises is considered."

WOOL USED IN JUNE BREAKS MONTHLY RECORD

THE TOTAL AMOUNT of wool consumed during June was 55,000,000 pounds, grease equivalent, which exceeds that of any other month this year, and is more than twice the amount consumed in February, according to the "Monthly Wool Consumption" report just issued by the Bureau of Markets. June consumption represents an increase of 6 per cent over the amount used in May, and 22 per cent over the amount used in April. Monthly consumption of wool has increased steadily since February, which is said to indicate continued activity in the textile industry.

TRADE REVIEW

CAUSES OF DEMORALIZED MARKET

[BY JAMES E. POOLE]

CHICAGO, ILL., September 5, 1919.

SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH COMMENCEMENT of the "K. Bill" hearing at Washington a crash occurred in the live-stock market. It was a spectacular demonstration of packer influence. Cattle broke \$1 to \$2 per cwt., hogs \$3, and sheep, including lambs, \$1 to \$2 per cwt. in less than a week. Substantial increases in receipts at all western markets were undoubtedly a bearish factor, but psychological influences were equally effective. A suggestive feature was the fact that on Monday of the last week of August packer buyers were as busy as a bunch of propagandists in every branch of the market. On Wednesday a cyclone burst, values melting away with astounding rapidity. Buyers quit the market in bunches, refusing even to peep into the pens.

"Packers do not know what is going to happen to them at Washington, and are playing safe," said a trader. Perhaps he was right; but the suspicion existed that the thing had been staged for demonstrative purposes. It was the worst break since the Roosevelt panic, when cattle were worth nothing, sheep were a liability, and hogs were well sold at \$4.

With suspicious suddenness the dressed-beef market collapsed. This was not illogical, as retailers, restaurant-keepers, and hotel men insisted on charging the public war prices. Exploitation of this fact by the metropolitan press incensed consumers, who retaliated by curtailing purchases. The retailer is in much the same attitude as a Georgia hotel-keeper who had the unappreciated honor of entertaining Bill Nye and Riley several years ago when on a southern lecturing tour. An exorbitant charge for wretched accommodations was resented by Nye, who approached the Boniface, asking him to gratify his curiosity by telling him why he charged so outrageously for such indifferent accommodations. Ejecting a quart of tincture of tobacco from his cavernous mouth, the hotel man replied: "Well, it's because I need the money so damn bad."

Packers have insisted right along that even possibility of enactment of such legislation as the Wyoming and Iowa senators propose would result disastrously to live-stock growers, and on this occasion they were in a we-told-you-so attitude. Just how far demoralization is to run must be left to conjecture. That they do not intend to accumulate meats in an atmosphere of uncertainty is evident. One fact cannot be ignored, and that is that present meat-distribution conditions are illegitimate and will ultimately work to the disadvantage of the producer. It is an economic axiom that values are ultimately determined by the ability and willingness of consumers to pay. A condition of mind has been created that has prompted this element to balk at the price pace. Measured by stock-yard values, no excuse exists for the extortion practiced, not only by retailers, but by owners of public eating-houses.

Everything vended at the stock-yards has suffered severe depreciation, and growers are naturally inquiring the why and wherefore. Packers insist that the public has reduced beef consumption, that Europe is not buying beef products, and that a deluge of sheep and lambs necessitates putting the surplus in freezers. New York has been inundated with western grass beef; and, as that market is the last port of call, when it suffers from indigestion the whole trade reflects that condition.

The break in fat stuff has exerted a depressing influence on the feeder trade. When it came, orders for thousands of thin

cattle, hogs, and sheep were canceled, prospective investors deciding to keep their capital intact until the atmosphere clarified. The break has afforded another convincing demonstration of the fact that live-stock feeding is on a gambling basis.

WORLD'S WHEAT REQUIREMENTS

THE WORLD'S ESTIMATED WHEAT CROP (in bushels) for 1919, the normal home consumption of the various countries, and the probable import requirements or surplus left for export are presented in the subjoined tables, which, with slight modifications, we reproduce from the *Agricultural Gazette of Canada* for August:

IMPORTING COUNTRIES

Countries	Indicated Crop Aug. 1, 1919	Normal Consumption	Indicated Requirements
Great Britain and Ireland.....	75,000,000	276,000,000	200,000,000
France.....	180,000,000	361,000,000	150,000,000
Italy.....	160,000,000	237,000,000	95,000,000
Spain.....	138,000,000	136,700,000	.....
Portugal.....	6,000,000	.....	4,000,000
Greece.....	4,000,000	.....	15,000,000
Holland, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.....	24,000,000	.....	50,000,000
Belgium.....	8,000,000	65,000,000	60,000,000
Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Turkey.....	.....	.....	20,000,000
Germany.....	80,000,000	221,000,000	130,000,000
Austria-Hungary and Czecho-Slovakia.....	144,000,000	241,000,000	80,000,000
Total for Europe.....	.....	.....	804,000,000
Outside of Europe.....	.....	.....	60,000,000
World's aggregate requirements.....	.....	.....	864,000,000

In the preceding indicated requirements, India does not figure at all. It is hoped she may recoup herself for a hundred million deficiency in the last crop by a surplus in the crop which is now being seeded. Neither do the above-mentioned indicated requirements take into consideration the probable export to northern Russia and Petrograd, nor do they provide for carry-over stocks in the importing countries.

EXPORTING COUNTRIES

Countries	Estimated Production 1919	Home Needs	Probable Export*
Canada.....	282,000,000	98,000,000	175,000,000
United States†.....	1,161,000,000	716,000,000	440,000,000
Argentina.....	160,000,000	78,000,000	150,000,000
Australia.....	90,000,000	50,000,000	100,000,000
Totals.....	1,693,000,000	942,000,000	865,000,000

*Carry-over from last year must be included in quantities available for export.

†For the United States, at least, this estimate is too high. (See more recent figures in next column.)

GUARANTEED WHEAT PRICES

THE PRICES OF WHEAT in the various countries fixed or guaranteed to the producer by their respective governments for the years 1918 and 1919, as reported by the Bureau of Markets, are as shown in the table below. Where prices were fixed for the different grades of wheat, the average of these prices is shown as the fixed price for that country:

Country	Price	Country	Price
Algeria.....	\$2.36	Italy.....	\$4.33
Argentina.....	1.56	Morocco.....	1.58
Australia.....	1.44	Netherlands.....	3.23
Austria-Hungary.....	2.21	Portugal.....	3.83
Belgium.....	2.15	Spain.....	3.96
Brazil.....	2.65	Sweden.....	2.95
Canada.....	2.245	Switzerland.....	3.25
Denmark.....	1.97	Tunis.....	3.25
Egypt.....	2.67	United Kingdom.....	2.28
France.....	3.94	United States.....	*2.395
Germany.....	2.10		

*No. 1 northern spring wheat at New York.

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS IN JULY

THE FOLLOWING TABLES, compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, show the exports of beef and hog products from the United States for July, 1919, compared with July, 1918, and for the seven months ended July, 1919, compared with the same period of last year:

BEEF PRODUCTS (Pounds)

Classification	July		Seven Months Ended July	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Beef, canned.....	5,392,104	13,526,800	44,747,256	85,879,455
Beef, fresh.....	8,680,524	32,056,016	106,221,759	311,733,604
Beef, pickled.....	3,320,564	2,651,413	27,144,787	25,614,175
Oleo oil.....	3,745,120	4,093,078	40,558,653	50,920,639

HOG PRODUCTS (Pounds)

Classification	July		Seven Months Ended July	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Bacon.....	117,679,193	119,893,655	868,203,870	736,959,092
Hams and shoulders.....	47,452,834	55,368,812	492,819,143	370,708,140
Lard.....	68,163,734	68,600,261	528,111,770	352,594,835
Neutral lard.....	2,581,423	2,343,924	16,669,089	5,342,866
Pork, pickled.....	2,392,515	4,676,888	16,369,663	23,821,199
Lard compounds.....	6,359,713	2,448,177	103,940,148	15,848,695

EXPORTS OF BREAD-STUFFS FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30

GRAINS AND FLOUR in the following quantities were exported from the United States during the month of June and the fiscal year ended June, 1919, compared with the corresponding periods a year ago:

Kind	Month of June		Year Ended June 30	
	1919	1918	1919	1918
Barley..... bu.	6,046,275	613,901	20,457,781	26,285,378
Corn..... bu.	909,875	3,278,978	16,687,538	40,997,827
Oats..... bu.	6,164,883	7,207,406	96,360,974	105,837,309
Rye..... bu.	7,121,660	190,459	27,540,188	11,990,123
Wheat..... bu.	16,389,853	466,624	178,582,673	34,118,853
Flour..... bbl.	3,613,714	2,423,749	24,190,092	21,879,951

CROP ESTIMATES FOR AUGUST 1

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE publishes the following summary of crop estimates for August 1, 1919, together with the changes since July 1—which, it will be noted, in each case represent a considerable reduction. For purposes of comparison we place in juxtaposition the annual average for the five-year period 1913-17:

Crop	Indications August 1	Change since July 1	Five-Year Average 1913-17
Corn..... bu.	2,788,378,000	— 27,052,000	2,749,349,000
Winter wheat..... bu.	715,301,000	— 123,281,000	555,190,000
Spring wheat..... bu.	225,080,000	— 97,016,000	235,444,000
Oats..... bu.	1,266,401,000	— 136,727,000	1,331,287,000
Barley..... bu.	203,525,000	— 27,375,000	199,212,000
Rye..... bu.	84,552,000	— 18,137,000	50,001,000
Potatoes..... bu.	357,120,000	— 33,628,000	366,046,000
Hay..... tons	110,876,000	— 4,825,000	96,912,000

The composite condition of all crops of the United States on August 1 was 2.2 per cent below their ten-year average on that date, 4.5 per cent lower than on July 1, and 0.2 higher than the final acre yields in 1918.

BUYERS OF COTTONSEED CAKE ADVISED TO WAIT

AT A MEETING of some of the officers of the National Wool Growers' Association, held in Salt Lake City recently to consider the price of cottonseed cake, it was decided to advise stockmen to defer their purchases till later in the season. Today cake, f. o. b. the mills, is selling for from \$78 to \$82 a ton, which makes it cost the stockman from \$90 to \$95, according to location. This price, it was held, is the result of speculation.

Practically all the old cottonseed cake has been sold. The mills will not start to crush the new crop until some time this month. Not knowing what their seed will cost them, it is impossible for them to tell what the cake should be sold for. The price of \$57, f. o. b. mills, fixed by the Food Administration, is not likely to be materially increased, and, in the judgment of the meeting, by the first of November may even drop \$20 a ton. A full corn crop, with lower transportation rates, will be bound to effect a reduction in the price of cottonseed cake.

In view of these circumstances, prospective buyers were urged to wait.

COTTONSEED STATISTICS

THE CENSUS REPORT on cottonseed for the period from August 1, 1918, to July 31, 1919, shows the cottonseed received at mills was 4,450,189 tons; crushed, 4,466,028 tons, and held at mills, 24,599. Production of crude oil was 1,320,249,788 pounds; refined, 1,158,864,979; cake and meal, 2,158,888 tons; hulls, 1,123,879 tons; linters, 928,913 bales. Stocks July 31 of crude oil were 25,681,260 pounds, and of refined, 146,719,782 pounds.

LIVE-STOCK IMPORTS RESUMED

RECENTLY 378 sheep, 111 cows and heifers, 6 horses, and 1 Berkshire boar pig arrived in New York from England on the steamship "Michigan." All the animals were pure-breds, and were purchased for use as foundation stock and in improving the herds of American breeders.

This shipment of live stock is one of the first which have reached this country from the British Isles since the outbreak of the war, and marks the resumption of pure-bred live-stock trade between the two countries.

TURN IN OUR FOREIGN TRADE

WHILE EXPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES in July were the smallest of any month this year, our imports were the greatest ever known. It is evident that demoralized exchange rates have at last had the effect of reducing our shipments, and that American commerce is now entering on a resumption of the normal process of exchanging goods for goods. Following are the figures:

	July, 1919	June, 1919	July, 1918
Exports from United States.....	\$570,000,000	\$918,000,000	\$507,000,000
Imports into United States.....	345,000,000	293,000,000	242,000,000
Balance in favor of United States....	\$225,000,000	\$625,000,000	\$265,000,000

ARGENTINA MAY STOP EXPORT OF COW BEEF

IT IS REPORTED from Buenos Aires that a bill has been introduced in the Argentine Congress prohibiting the exportation of meat obtained from cows. The bill, it is added, is likely to pass.

BRITISH MEAT IMPORTS

B RITISH IMPORTS OF BEEF for the month of July, 1919, according to the Board of Trade returns, were 64,354,600 pounds, of which 10,681,700 pounds were chilled beef from South America. The total shipments show an increase of about 10,000,000 pounds as compared with July of last year, due to the much heavier arrivals from Argentina. A year ago the United States sent Great Britain 60 per cent of her beef supplies, and Argentina 20 per cent. In July of this year the latter country accounted for 89 per cent and America for less than 1 per cent of the total arrivals at British ports.

With much larger consignments of mutton and lamb from Australia and New Zealand, the imports in July, 64,555,400 pounds, show an increase of 26,858,900 pounds.

Of an aggregate of a little over 100,000,000 pounds of bacon, 71 per cent came from the United States, while of 36,676,500 pounds of ham, no less than 35,351,700 pounds, or over 96 per cent, were from the same source. "In money," sighs the *London Meat Trades' Journal*, from which we quote these figures, "this means that for one month's supply of bacon and ham—with the exchange so much against us—we have to pay over 10¼ million pounds to the United States of America."

Taking the figures for the first seven months of this year, British beef imports show a decrease of 68,832,700 pounds over a year ago, and bacon of 145,992,300 pounds; while mutton and lamb imports have increased by 81,136,100, pork by 1,900,000, and ham by 42,390,800 pounds.

Below is a summarized table of meat imports for January to July, inclusive, together with the figures for the same period of 1918 for comparison:

IMPORTS OF FRESH MEAT AND BACON FOR SEVEN MONTHS ENDED
JULY, 1919
(In Hundredweights)

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Bacon
United States.....	708,988	.....	2,000	4,145,548
Uruguay.....	213,009	80,213	.....	.....
Argentina.....	2,605,805	640,368	.....	.....
Australia.....	62,921	431,848	.....	.....
New Zealand.....	128,415	990,775	.....	.....
Other countries.....	216,626	109,969	48,672	72,561
Canada.....	.....	.....	.....	1,363,979
Total, 1919.....	3,935,764	2,253,173	50,672	5,582,088
1918.....	4,624,091	1,441,812	69,775	7,042,011

AUSTRALIAN HIDES RELEASED FROM CONTROL

HIDES AND LEATHER have been released from the control of the Australian Commonwealth government, according to a consular report. By the new arrangement, it is said, a free market for all hides is established immediately, and hides formerly sold at auction shall continue to be thus sold; but tanners will at all times be allowed to take the hides at the last bid. All meat-works and other hides are to be exempt from auction, but they must be submitted to the tanners before they are sold for export.

FRENCH CATTLE PURCHASES

AGENTS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT are in this country with a view to purchasing 30,000 head of cattle, principally milch-cows. The cows will be sold to French farmers at cost, plus transportation charges. The average price paid for the animals secured to date is \$160.

Owing to the exchange rate on francs (8.36 francs=\$1) and the excessive ocean freight (\$140 a head), the price on cattle delivered in France is practically prohibitive, and there is but slight chance of any business being done in either beef or dairy cattle for private account for some time to come.

MEAT-TRADE SITUATION IN AUSTRALIA

THE MONTH OF JUNE was a decidedly dry one in most parts of Australia, according to the Melbourne *Pastoral Review*. Queensland, except for certain areas of the coast, the greater part of New South Wales, and the north of South and Western Australia reported little or no rain. On the whole, however, feed is fairly plentiful, and stock is keeping in reasonably good condition. The lambing in Victoria and the south of New South Wales is one of the best experienced in recent years. In South and Western Australia the crop has not been so satisfactory.

The lack of refrigerated tonnage to lift the accumulation of frozen produce lying in the various cold stores is still causing great concern. Both in Victoria and in New South Wales the stocks awaiting shipment are very large. The arrangement by which South America is being allotted ten times as much cargo space by the imperial government as Australia is giving rise to much criticism.

The following table sets out the actual clearances of frozen meats from Australia, nominally to Great Britain, for the twelve months ending June 30, 1918 and 1919, respectively:

States	Mutton		Lamb		Beef	
	1917-18 Carc.	1918-19 Carc.	1917-18 Carc.	1918-19 Carc.	1917-18 Qrs.	1918-19 Qrs.
New South Wales.....	81,776	278,980	14,052	63,694	7,483	5,006
Victoria.....	48,783	656,677	146,903	31,023	.....	2,491
Queensland.....	45,026	59,837	10	.....	1,399,336	687,473
South Australia.....	2,212	38,067	952	21,295	602	.....
Totals.....	177,797	1,033,561	161,917	116,012	1,407,421	694,970

The most interesting feature of the table is the very large decrease in the output of beef. Possibly about the same number of quarters were in store on June 30 in each year, which indicates that the killings have been more than 50 per cent less this year than last. This is accounted for mainly by the drought in 1915, when so many calves were lost that under ordinary conditions would have grown into beef and been available this season. As 1916 was not a bad year in the north, the supply of cattle next year should be much larger.

DECREASE IN EXPORT OF MEAT FROM AUSTRALIA

RECENT RETURNS show that there are now 91,676,281 sheep and 11,040,391 cattle in Australia, according to a report received from the United States consul-general at Sydney. Owing to the lack of tonnage, the amount of frozen meat exported last year was very small, only 177,797 carcasses of mutton and 161,917 carcasses of lamb being shipped. The beef shipments totaled 1,407,421 quarters, or about 200,000 below the previous year. With the exception of about 8,000 quarters, the whole of the beef was exported from Queensland. The prospects for the coming season, however, are brighter, as more vessels with refrigerating space are arriving.

Wethers of the best quality sold as high as \$13.92 each, and lambs of the best quality at \$8.12. Prime bullocks sold as high as \$168, cows at \$122, steers at \$105.60, and calves at \$60. The general opinion is that the prices of meat in 1919 and 1920 will be the highest ever recorded in Australia.

MEAT CONTROL RESUMED BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT is made by the British Food Controller that the government has decided to resume control of the supply and distribution of imported bacon, ham, and lard, and that the prices charged will also be under supervision.

WORLD'S MERCHANT TONNAGE

LOYDS REGISTER for 1919-20, issued last month, shows that the world's total merchant tonnage is now 50,919,000 gross tons, compared with 49,090,000 gross tons in 1914, just before the outbreak of the European war. The totals of the gross steam tonnage in round numbers of the principal countries for the two years are separately stated. The 1919 steam tonnage for Germany is for the time of the armistice, and, as Germany ceded to the Allies all ships over 1,600 gross tons and one-fourth of the remaining smaller ships, the actual German tonnage will be about 700,000 gross tons, and 2,550,000 gross tons will be delivered among the Allies proportioned to war losses. Sail tonnage (net) comprises a small and diminishing part of the world's shipping and is added at the end of the table following:

Countries	June, 1914	June, 1919
United Kingdom	18,892,000	16,345,000
British Dominions	1,632,000	1,863,000
United States:		
Seagoing	2,027,000	9,773,000
Great Lakes	2,260,000	2,160,000
Austria-Hungary	1,052,000	713,000
Denmark	770,000	631,000
France	1,922,000	1,962,000
Germany	5,135,000	3,247,000
Greece	821,000	291,000
Holland	1,472,000	1,574,000
Italy	1,430,000	1,238,000
Japan	1,708,000	2,325,000
Norway	1,957,000	1,597,000
Spain	884,000	709,000
Sweden	1,015,000	917,000
Other countries	2,427,000	2,552,000
Total steam tonnage.....	45,404,000	47,807,000
Sail tonnage (net)	3,686,000	3,022,000
Grand total	49,090,000	50,919,000

The outstanding feature in this tabulation is the enormous increase in the seagoing tonnage of the United States, under the spur of war emergency, raising us once more to the rank of the second maritime nation. Today, after the lapse of decades, the American flag is again floating over American-built hulls in every port and waterway of the world. Whether we shall be able to keep it there in normal times of peace, or gradually revert to our traditional level of an inland and coastwise trader, is a problem that is giving our economists much food for speculation. On one thing all seem agreed—that conditions have never been more auspicious.

CANADA TO CONTROL WHEAT CROP

ADVICES FROM CANADA state that the sale of the 1919 wheat crop will be effected by a government board, for both export and domestic purposes. An initial cash payment, the amount of which has not yet been announced, will be made by the board to farmers for each bushel sold, and at the conclusion of the season, after deduction of necessary expenses, the total excess realized over and above this first payment will be divided among the original sellers in proportion to grades and quantities sold.

FIRST SHIPMENT OF REGISTERED CATTLE TO URUGUAY

ON AUGUST 11 a consignment of registered cattle left Chicago for New York, en route to Montevideo, Uruguay. The animals were selected from some of the principal herds of the United States, and comprised twenty Hereford cows and bulls, twelve Shorthorns, and five Holsteins, representing a total cost of approximately \$64,000.

ROUND THE RANGE

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

The National Western Stock Show Association has taken over the management of the annual stock show held at Denver in January of each year. The association has made arrangements with the Denver Union Stock Yards Company whereby the latter will purchase a three-story barn, 170 by 125 feet, located on Lafayette Street directly opposite the present stadium. The building will be remodeled as an annex to the present equipment. In addition to this, a new barn, 100 by 125 feet, will be erected. The additional space has been rendered necessary by the unusual growth of the National Western Stock Show.

JULY SHIPMENTS OF LIVE-STOCK FROM MONTANA

On account of drought conditions existing over a considerable portion of the state, shipments of live stock from Montana were unusually heavy during the month of July. Since then shipments have decreased, due in part to recent rains in the dry area and to unsettled labor conditions at some of the central live-stock markets. Live-stock men report that the stock is holding up well where water is available. It is also asserted that the financial condition of the stockmen generally in dry districts is such as will enable them to hold and feed their stock without making sacrifices at the present time.

MILLIONS OF TICKS CLEANED OUT IN JUNE

Despite extensive rains, swollen streams, flooded vats, and shortage of labor for grain-harvesting, more than 7,000,000 dippings of cattle to get rid of the cattle-fever tick were supervised in June by federal, state, and county inspectors. The actual number of dippings was 7,097,260. While that is 524,009 less than the dippings in May, it is thought to be a remarkably good record, in view of the adverse conditions with which the tick-fighters had to contend.

Another, and highly encouraging, reason for the fewer dippings in June is the fact that, in areas where "mopping-up" work was conducted in the spring, further dipping has been found unnecessary because of the absence of ticks.

DROUGHT CATTLE FOR CALIFORNIA

THE PRODUCER is in receipt of a communication from Mr. D. J. Stollery, secretary of the California Cattlemen's Association, in which the writer directs attention to the possibility of relieving the drought situation in the Northwest by shipping stock and feeder cattle out of the affected districts to certain parts of California—notably the northern part of that state—where a limited market exists for such cattle. Letters have been addressed by Mr. Stollery to the various state live-stock associations in the drought area, urging co-operation in bringing together buyers and sellers. Interested stockmen should write to Mr. Stollery, 222 Sharon Building, San Francisco, Cal.

COLORADO FOREST RANGE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION

Forage crops in the Pike National Forest are exceptionally good this season. This forest, located near the center of Colorado, comprises about one million acres. While the grass is said to be somewhat shorter than usual, due to light rainfall during the spring months, it is stronger and hardier in growth than would otherwise have been the case. As a result, cattle and sheep grazing this range are putting on firm fat, and are said to be doing exceptionally well. The Forest Service reports that crops in the Pike National Forest are from 5 to 10 per cent above normal.

TO HEAD OFF THE CATTLE-RUSTLER

Cattle-rustling on the Arizona-Mexico border is becoming so prevalent, according to news dispatches, that the military authorities in the Nogales district have been prompted to call the attention of the Arizona Live Stock Sanitary Board to the possible serious consequences if the thievery is allowed to continue, and to offer the assistance of the military in checking the practice. The suggestion is made that representative stockmen from both sides of the line meet with the board and the military authorities in an endeavor to devise means of putting a stop to the stealing.

One effective method of preventing the rustling, it has been suggested, would be to construct a fence along the whole international border line, "horse-high, bull-strong, and practically man-proof."

RECENT RAINS RELIEVED DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN WYOMING

Pastures and crops in the drought-stricken districts of Wyoming are showing the effects of recent heavy rains. It is believed that the necessity for moving live stock to other pastures has been considerably lessened, and the favorable freight rates on feed to the dry territory will enable feeders and ranchmen to winter almost a normal number of animals.

ANIMAL RELIEF TO CONTINUE

The American Red Star Animal Relief Association, organized during the war for the purpose of looking after the welfare of the millions of dumb, and too often neglected, participants in the world-struggle, will not go out of existence with the signing of the Peace Treaty. The War Council of the association has decided to take up civilian relief work, extending its field to the improvement of living conditions for our domestic animals generally, and lending its aid to local animal-welfare organizations wherever needed. Among its activities will also be investigation of live-stock conditions on the range. Dr. W. W. Yard, of Denver, will be in charge of this branch of the work, in conjunction with government officials.

ASSOCIATION FOR CARE OF CRIPPLED LIVE STOCK

There has recently been established in New York City an organization, known as the Manhattan Sanitary Inspection Association, the object of which is to care for and give relief to any live stock that may be crippled or exhausted, whether from long shipment, lack of nourishment, sickness, or other cause. It is understood that the Jersey City Stock Yards Company and the Central Union Stock Yards Company have established the service in their yards, where a veterinarian will be on duty at all times to render such aid as may be necessary. The expense of maintaining the service will be divided equally between the company and the association.

HALF OF UNITED STATES CATTLE FOUND IN TEN STATES

Almost half of the cattle produced in this country are grown in ten states. The following table gives the number of cattle in the ten principal cattle-raising states on January 1, 1919. It includes all cattle, both beef and dairy breeds.

State	No. Head
Texas	5,021,000
Iowa	4,492,000
Nebraska	3,602,000
Kansas	3,365,000
Wisconsin	3,329,000
Minnesota	3,000,000
Missouri	2,692,000
Illinois	2,427,000
New York	2,389,000
Ohio	2,132,000

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CO-OPERATIVE LIVE-STOCK SHIPPERS

At a meeting in Chicago, on August 12, of delegates representing eight states, the initial steps were taken toward the organization of a National Federation of Farmers' Co-operative Live Stock Shipping Associations. Earl J. Trosper, of Chicago, was appointed organizing secretary and instructed to call regional meetings for the purpose of interesting the shipping associations of the various states in the new movement. The first of these conferences will be held in St. Louis on September 23.

CO-OPERATIVE WOOL SALES IN NEBRASKA

Ten co-operative wool sales have been held by the farm bureaus of twenty Nebraska counties. All the wool was pooled. The county agents assisted in organizing plans and in getting buyers to place their bids. In the ten sales a total of 198,305 pounds of wool was sold. The lowest price received was 35 cents a pound, the highest 56 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents, with an average for the entire amount of 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

CO-OPERATIVE LIVE-STOCK SALES IN CANADA

More than 7,000 carloads of live stock were marketed co-operatively by the farmers of five provinces in Canada last year, according to a report published by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. This system is making greatest progress in the prairie provinces. From Winnipeg to the Rockies local live-stock shipping associations are in operation. Many of them are associated with the grain-growers' movement, but in Saskatchewan more special stock-marketing associations are doing business on an extensive scale. In Ontario from 200 to 250 organizations are shipping. In Quebec the Cheesemakers' Agricultural Co-operative Association markets all classes of commercial live stock, while the live-stock associations handle breeding stock. In the provinces farther east co-operative marketing has been applied more especially to sheep and lambs. It is fair to assume that at a comparatively early date much of the live stock of Canada will be marketed by the farmers themselves.

Each association has a manager whose duty it is to look after the details in connection with the marketing of stock, and whose remuneration is usually a set rate per hundred on the quantity of the stock marketed, or a commission on the proceeds from the sale. Well-established associations have set shipping days, and each member drives his stock to the local yards. Several associations ship regularly once each week, others every two weeks, while still others ship more frequently at certain seasons of the year.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE RE-APPEARS IN ENGLAND

Foot-and-mouth disease has again made its appearance in England, this time in Warwickshire. The British government has promptly quarantined the infected area, and taken the usual precautions to prevent the spread of the disease.

RESTRICTION ON CATTLE SHIPMENTS TO CANADA

The Canadian Department of Agriculture has announced that on and after July 2 all American cattle imported into the Dominion for exhibition purposes must be accompanied by a tuberculin test chart signed by an officer of the Bureau of Animal Industry, certifying that the cattle have been tested by him within sixty days of the date of entry into Canada. This step was deemed advisable in view of the fact that a similar change has been made in the American regulations with respect to Canadian cattle.

CANADA PROHIBITS EXPORT OF HIDES AND LEATHER

On account of the high prices prevailing in the domestic markets, an export embargo has been placed by the Canadian government on hides, skins, and leather of all kinds.

SLAUGHTER OF CALVES IN ENGLAND RESTRICTED

The British Ministry of Food, according to the *London Meat Trades' Journal*, has issued an order prohibiting the sale of veal except to manufacturers or as part of the contents of sausages and similar articles. This order had been made necessary by the excessive slaughter of calves during the past few months. The order does not apply to Ireland.

FIRST TUBERCULOSIS ELECTION

The first election in the United States to decide whether or not a county shall eradicate tuberculosis from its herds of cattle has been ordered to be held in Clay County, Miss., on September 2. The election was ordered by the county board of supervisors after a petition asking for it had been presented by a group of citizens. The results of this election will have much more than local interest, because it may be the forerunner of hundreds of others in other sections of the country.

HORSE MEAT MUST BE LABELED

Hereafter the transportation of horse meat in interstate commerce, or import and export trade, is unlawful unless each container is plainly labeled "horse meat" or "horse-meat product," as the case may be.

NO MORE DAYLIGHT SAVING AFTER OCTOBER 26

Congress, by two-thirds majorities in both Houses, has passed the repeal of the daylight-saving act over the President's veto. The bill now becomes law; which means that after the last Sunday in October (the 26th) we return permanently to the old schedule of time-reckoning. Score one for the agriculturist!

MEAT-FREEZING PLANTS IN NEW ZEALAND

There are now in New Zealand forty-four meat-freezing works, with a total killing capacity of 3,860 cattle and 129,150 sheep a day. The total storage capacity of these works is 7,375,272 sixty-pound carcasses; but, as carcasses are now being telescoped, a greater number can be accommodated.

CANADA'S WOOL CLIP

The wool clip of Canada for 1919 has been placed at 15,000,000 pounds, according to July estimates. This represents a very material increase over 1918. Government figures would indicate a production of close to 18,000,000 pounds, but this is thought by well-informed persons in the wool trade to be in excess of the actual clip. The 1918 production was 12,000,000 pounds. The number of sheep has been increased by between 300,000 and 400,000.

A NEW BEEF ANIMAL

The possibility of crossing the Canadian buffalo with ordinary domestic cattle has for many years engaged the attention of Canadian breeders, with a view to evolving a type of beef-producing animal that would be very hardy and well adapted to stand the rigorous climate of the more northerly districts of Canada. says the *London Times*.

Some interesting experiments are now being carried out by the Canadian government with a herd of "cattalos," as these cross-breeds are known. The structure and anatomy of the buffalo are said to be well adapted for beef production, since it has an extra pair of ribs and a longer backbone than the domestic ox; and, although these extra ribs are not always reproduced in the "cattalo," the length of backbone persists. According to reports so far received, the "cattalo" is an exceptionally hardy animal, combining the stamina of the buffalo with the beef-producing qualities of first-class cattle.

SWIFT QUILTS TANNING BUSINESS

Louis F. Swift, president of the meat-packing corporation of Swift & Co., Chicago, has announced that it has been decided to dispose of all the interests of that concern in the tanning and leather business.

NEW SOURCES OF MEAT SUPPLY

Few have realized the possibilities of an increased meat and hide supply from the immense herds of caribou roaming the Arctic and sub-Arctic wilds. It is estimated that between twenty and thirty millions of these animals are found in northern Canada. Owing to lack of transportation facilities, it has hitherto been impracticable to exploit these herds on a commercial scale. With the opening of the Hudson Bay railroad, connecting these remote regions with the transcontinental line, this difficulty is now in a fair way of being overcome, and in a few years, if predictions come true, we may expect to see caribou carcasses transported to Canadian markets in wholesale quantities. The meat has the flavor of venison, while the hide is said to yield a fine quality of chamois leather.

Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Arctic explorer, in a recent address before the Canadian Parliament, drawing attention to these facts, likewise mentioned the amazing fecundity of the reindeer introduced into Alaska. In twenty years the flock of 1,280 head originally imported from Lapland has grown to more than 100,000. Another score of years, he predicted, would see this number increased to 7,000,000—producing as much meat as twice that number of sheep. A corresponding development, he thought, might be anticipated in northern Canada, where there are at least a million square miles unsuitable for agriculture or ordinary domestic stock, but providing all-the-year-around grazing for the hardy reindeer. Reindeer flesh, as is well known, is very palatable.

Mr. Stefansson likewise urged that steps be taken toward the development of musk-ox herds for commercial purposes. This animal, he is convinced, can be readily domesticated, and would represent a valuable addition, not only to the meat supply of the Dominion, but to its wool production as well—the animal being covered with a heavy coat of long, soft, wool-like hair. Musk-ox flesh, it is claimed, is practically indistinguishable from beef.

A NEW BREED OF SHEEP

An interesting experiment, that may have an important bearing on the sheep industry of western Canada, is now being conducted in that country, we learn from the *London Meat Trades' Journal*. This is the evolution of an entirely new breed of sheep. The culmination of the plan will take eleven years, by which time it is hoped to introduce an entirely new type of animal. The experiment is being made by crossing Rambouillets with Romneys. Wool from these cross-breeds last year reached the highest average price on the American market, we are informed.

THE SHEEP-KILLING DOG

It has been estimated that a total of 108,000 sheep are killed by dogs every year in the farming districts of the United States. These figures are based only upon the number actually paid for, and it is more than probable that the true losses far exceed this, according to Farmers' Bulletin No. 935, issued by the Department of Agriculture.

In 1913 crop reporters in thirty-six states submitted estimates which showed that the number of sheep in those states could be increased 150 per cent without displacing other live stock. The reports submitted also show that sheep-raising is very remunerative, but that dogs constitute the most serious obstacle to its development. As remedies for this state of affairs, the author of the bulletin suggests a higher tax on dogs, in order to reduce their number, and the enactment of much stricter laws. An outline for a suggested state dog law is given, covering taxation, identification of licensed dogs, impounding, destruction of dogs found at large without license tags, killing of sheep-killing dogs, and state compensation for owners having sheep killed by dogs.

DOG HAS HAD HIS DAY IN BADGER STATE

After twenty years of agitation, Wisconsin recently succeeded in putting on her statute-books a law designed to protect the flocks of that state from the ravages of the sheep-hunting dog. The new law, which will not go into effect until July 1, 1920, provides for substantial license fees for canines—\$5 in the case of females and \$3 for males; requires muzzling, and empowers anybody to destroy dogs running loose without license tags. Protection for flocks in pastures at night is provided by a requirement that all dogs must be confined from sunset to sunrise. Damage by dogs is to be recompensed from license money in the hands of county treasurers.

BUFFALO MULTIPLYING RAPIDLY

There are approximately 7,000 buffalo in North America. Canada has something over 3,500 and the United States more than 3,000. This is about seven times the number in the United States in 1889, when the first buffalo census was taken. Of this number, individuals own approximately 2,000. There are eight government herds, six of which are under the control of the Department of Agriculture. The largest herd in this country is in charge of the Interior Department, and is located in the Yellowstone National Park, where there are about 450 bison.

BUFFALO BULLS TO BE SUPPLIED

As a surplus of male animals has accumulated in the buffalo herds under the control of the Department of Agriculture, the secretary has been authorized to supply to any municipality or public institution not more than one American bison from any surplus which may exist in any herd under the control of the department. In order to aid in the propagation of the species, the secretary is also authorized to lend or exchange animals with other owners of bison.

CHOLERA KILLS FEWER HOGS

According to records of the Department of Agriculture, during the thirteen months from April 1, 1918, to April 30, 1919, hog cholera killed 2,815,004 hogs, valued at \$62,042,688.16. This is the lowest loss by numbers for a similar period in the live-stock history of the United States; but, on account of the high price of hogs, the monetary loss was heavy. For example, during the year ending March 31, 1913, hogs numbering 6,064,470 and worth \$58,833,653 died from cholera, while the next year the disease took 6,304,320 hogs, worth \$67,697,461.

Department experiments show that timeliness in vaccinating hogs against cholera is all-important. When exposed hogs were vaccinated, while still apparently healthy, losses amounted to only 4 per cent; but when vaccination was deferred until the animals showed external signs of sickness, losses averaged nearly 29 per cent. This shows that the man who puts off the preventive treatment until his hogs are sick with cholera stands only about one chance in seven of preventing fatal results. It is important, also, to maintain hog-yards and barns in a clean and sanitary condition.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES OF STATES

The aggregate revenues of the forty-eight states for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919, were \$588,305,651; the total expenditures, \$565,485,937. In eighteen of the states the revenues fell below the expenditures. The average per-capita expenditure was \$5.47. Of this sum, \$4.61 represented expenses, 64 cents outlays, and 22 interest on indebtedness. The net indebtedness of all the states totaled \$502,492,713, or \$4.86 per capita.

Of the \$66,207,696 spent for permanent improvements, \$21,951,415, or almost one-third, was expended for the construction of new roads or the improvement of existing ones. In this work California led with \$5,273,845. Only twenty-five states expended money for this purpose.

AFTER THE DAY'S WORK

ANDREW CARNEGIE

He belonged to the rare breed of Men Aloof. For half a century immersed shoulder-deep in the whirlpool of a ruthless industrialism, he kept his head clear of the mire and his heart uncrusted. Rising, in a few intense decades, from the humblest beginnings to the dominant position as "the most formidable single figure in the realm of American industry," he remained bigger than both his fame and his power. Keenly as he enjoyed the smoke of battle, he possessed the secret of leaving the day's smudge behind with the day's strife; and he retired at sixty-five, and died at fourscore and four, with the kindly smile of his shrewd eye undimmed and the fountain of his native mirth still bubbling.

* * *

Carnegie has been called "the first multimillionaire to feel the prick of social conscience." He was likewise the first American to admit that the possessor of enormous wealth is a public trustee, and that what has been accumulated through the joint efforts of many does not belong to any single individual. The maxim that it is "a disgrace to die rich" has been attributed to him. Perhaps he never said it—it does not matter. What matters is his deep conviction, oft repeated, that he owed his success in chief measure to the opportunities offered to all in a free democracy, and his honest endeavor to discharge what he felt to be his debt to his country and his fellow-men.

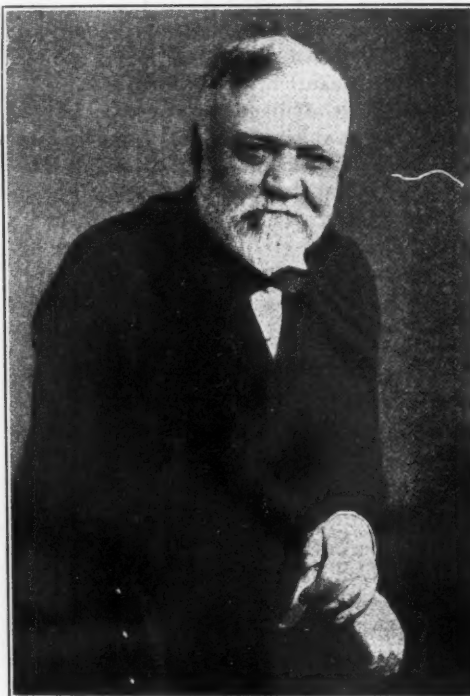
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And as he belonged to the rare breed of Men Aloof, so he was one of the last survivors of the race of Builders. "There were giants in those days!" The romance of his career was interwoven with the romance of America in the Making. He was fortunate in living at a period when individual initiative and energy could command great rewards. The period and the men are passing. The future is not likely to produce many fortunes such as his.

* * *

Andrew Carnegie was born November 25, 1835, in Dumferline, Fifeshire, Scotland, the son of a damask-weaver. The introduction of factory methods threatened the livelihood of the family, and in 1848 they emigrated to America, settling in Pittsburgh. Here Andrew made his

start in the business world as a bobbin boy at \$1.20 a week. Two years later he became messenger for a telegraph company, and improved his spare hours by learning telegraphy. In 1854 he entered the services of the Pennsylvania Railroad as an operator. At the age of twenty-eight he was promoted to superintendent of the western division of that road—at a salary of \$50 a month. During a portion of the Civil War he had charge of military



ANDREW CARNEGIE

railways and government telegraph lines in the East. His savings he invested in oil, and later, with canny business acumen, in the first sleeping-car company in this country, which proved a profitable venture. "And thus did I get my foot upon fortune's ladder," he wrote. "It is easy to climb after that."

After the war Carnegie engaged in the steel-making industry. He introduced the open-hearth, or Bessemer, method into this country. A high protective tariff aided him by barring out foreign competition. His unflinching instinct taught him how to take advantage of every opportunity. The millions were gathering fast.

At Pittsburgh he established the Keystone Bridge Works and the Union Iron Works. A few years later found him as

principal owner of the Homestead and other large plants. In 1889 he consolidated his interests into the Carnegie Steel Company—the so-called "billion-dollar steel trust." This, in 1901, was merged with the United States Steel Corporation. Having originally invested \$250,000, he sold out for \$500,000,000. This closes his active business career.

* * *

The second half of Carnegie's life-work was no less notable than the first. The "pioneer steelmaster" was followed by the "major philanthropist." In this field his genius found equally free play. From a forger of steel he evolved into a lecturer, writer, traveler. He set about distributing his vast fortune for the welfare of mankind. And he found intelligent spending more difficult than accumulation.

We cannot here enumerate all his benefactions. The Carnegie Corporation for the advancement of education was endowed with \$125,000,000. Three thousand library buildings throughout the United States and Great Britain cost \$65,000,000. The Carnegie Institute at Pittsburgh was given \$25,000,000, the Carnegie Foundation for the advancement of teaching \$15,000,000, and the Carnegie Research Institute of Washington \$22,000,000. The universities of his native Scotland got \$10,000,000, and through a gift of \$5,000,000 he established the "hero funds" of many lands. To the Employees' Pension and Relief Fund he contributed \$4,000,000, and the Carnegie Music Hall in New York was given \$2,000,000. He did much to encourage the Pan-American idea by paying for the beautiful building of the Pan-American Union at Washington, and he spent money munificently for the promotion of efforts to further the cause of international peace. The fine building at The Hague for the housing of the Arbitration Tribunal was erected with his money.

All in all he gave away during his lifetime, for public purposes, something like \$350,000,000—with the exception of John D. Rockefeller, more than any other man who ever lived. At his death he left about \$30,000,000, the bulk of which went to various endowments and legacies.

* * *

In 1887, at the age of fifty-two, Carnegie married Louise Whitfield, of New York. One child, a daughter, was born to them. For several years the aged philanthropist had been in feeble health. The war came as a cruel shock to him, shattering his ideals, seemingly rendering futile the better part of his life's work; and he failed rapidly. On August 11, 1919, this "bright-eyed, bird-like little man" died quietly, of pneumonia, at his magnificent summer home in Lenox, Massachusetts.

THE KIDS' CORRAL

THIS WIDE WORLD

STRIKES AND PROFITEERING are the order of the day. At a time when the whole world is crying for food to eat, for clothes to wear, for houses to live in, and looking to America to supply a large share of these things, those who produce them are hourly quitting work, and those who sell them are daily adding to their cost. Prices on everything we need were never so high as now. Poor people everywhere are suffering want. The coming winter threatens to be one of cold and hunger such as humanity has seldom seen. Yet the one thing which we could do to remedy this condition—produce to the utmost limit—that we refuse to do. Workmen are striking for higher pay to meet the higher prices. And the longer they are idle and the less they produce, the higher prices mount on the goods that are left; and the more wages are raised, the more the manufacturer charges for his goods—someone has to pay the bill; and the more the manufacturer charges for his goods, the more the merchant asks of the consumer. Then the workingman, who is both producer and consumer, strikes again for more pay to meet the new advance, and everybody all down the line again adds on a little more on his own account. You have all been on a merry-go-round. The high cost of living, with its strikes and its profiteering, is such a whirligig.

And our senators are still deliberating. If they would only hurry up and ratify the Peace Treaty, matters might soon improve. The whole world is waiting impatiently, not knowing which way to turn. Everybody is sick and tired of discussion and wrangling. Even Bolsheviks get hungry. And when the burglar and the loafer have emptied the larder, there is nothing left but to return to work.

The Senate is talking. And our President has started his "swing around the circle" to do a little talking of his own. He is trying to stir up enthusiasm for the League of Nations, and thus exert pressure on the obstinate lawmakers. The people are turning out in great crowds and receiving him well. Could a vote of the whole nation be taken, most observers seem to think that the league would be overwhelmingly indorsed. If that is the case, ought not the Senate to yield? It is supposed to represent the people.

Meanwhile a dozen or more small wars are going on in Europe and elsewhere. Nations cannot all at once forget their age-long rivalries. They hailed what they thought was the dawn of a new era. But when the sun remained below the horizon—while the statesmen were debating in Paris and in Washington—they reverted to the old method of settling their quarrels. The down-hill slide is always easier than the climb.

In Mexico things are drifting from bad to worse. The League of Nations would put a stop to that nuisance. It would ask Uncle Sam to go down there and make the bandits behave themselves.

A distressing occurrence during the past month was the race riots in Chicago and Washington. Over thirty people, black and white, were killed; many more were wounded. The fire had long been smoldering. Returning colored soldiers demanding equal rights for equal sacrifices, and an influx of negro labor from the South, fanned the spark. Trivial incidents made it burst out in full blaze.

Uncle Sam has here a good-sized problem on his hands. It is growing in difficulty with the increasing numbers of the negroes, and their advancing education and race-consciousness. The war has drained our mines and factories of many of their foreign workmen. Black labor from the South will largely replace them—there is none other available. What has hitherto been a southern problem will then become a national one.

What shall we do with the negro? We brought him here—we cannot send him back to Africa against his will. We fought to set him free—we cannot again enslave him. We gave him civil and political rights—we cannot take these away. Consistently and justly, we cannot keep him down by denying him educational and industrial opportunities. Having these, with ever louder voice he will ask for social equality. This few people, north or south, are ready to grant him. Then what shall we do?

HOW A LITTLE SHEPHERD BOY BECAME FAMOUS

[Evelyn Stein]

Perhaps some of you kiddies live on a sheep ranch, or on your daddy's farm there is a flock; or, if your home is in town, surely you have been in the country sometimes and seen a green pasture or a spring hillside where the sheep were nibbling, the sunlight shining on their woolly backs and making them look like spun silver. There is something very beautiful in such a sight, and that is why so many artists have painted pictures of sheep. And now I am going to tell you how the very first of them became famous.

It was ever and ever so long ago—nearly six hundred and fifty years—that a little peasant boy named Giotto (pronounced Jotto) lived in a tiny Italian village about fourteen miles from the city of Florence. As soon as Giotto was old enough, his father, who was a shepherd, began to teach him how to watch and tend the sheep as they browsed all day long on the hills beyond the village. No peasant children dreamed then of going to school—for the very good reason that they had none. But Giotto did not care, for he loved the sheep and all animals, and the trees and flowers and beautiful out-of-doors; and, though no one had ever taught him, he often tried to draw the things he saw.

It did not matter that he had no pencil nor paper, nor even a slate—there were plenty of smooth rocks on the hillsides, and also little soft stones with which he could draw. I dare say they were like the small yellowish-brown pebbles we children used in the same way when I was a kiddie. We called them "marking stones." At any rate, one day, when Giotto was about ten years old, he was watching his sheep; and they looked so beautiful to him that he picked up his little marking stone and, kneeling down in front of a piece of flat rock by the roadside, began to draw one of them.

He was so busy with his work that he did not know that presently along came two prancing horses drawing a carriage in which was riding the artist Cimabue (Chee-mah-boo'-a), who was at that time the most famous in all the city of Florence.

Cimabue noticed the little boy and was curious to see his work. So, quietly stopping his horses, he went over and, standing behind Giotto, looked at the drawing of the sheep. The moment he saw it he knew that the boy who had made it was a born artist. Right away he made friends with Giotto, and asked him if he would like to go home with him and study to be a painter. Giotto was

delighted, and, as soon as they got his father's and mother's consent, he jumped into the carriage with Cimabue, and they drove to Florence. And there for a number of years he lived in Cimabue's home and worked in his studio, till, by and by, he became so fine and famous an artist that he far surpassed his master, and Cimabue is remembered now chiefly because of his kindness to the little shepherd boy.

Indeed, Giotto had a wonderful influence on art. At that time, and for a long while after, artists scarcely thought of painting anything except religious pictures, and before Giotto they had settled down into a very stiff and usually ugly way of doing these. The people in their pictures all looked very much alike, with little or no expression on their thin brown faces; the lines of their dresses were straight and hard, and there was a great deal of heavy gold for backgrounds. Their Madonnas and saints and angels were all drawn much after the same pattern.

But Giotto's pictures were entirely different. He painted people and things as he saw them. Instead of gold backgrounds, he put in trees and sky and bits of hills and valleys, like those around his little home village. He used lighter, softer colors than other artists had done. And, above all, he made the people in his pictures look natural, instead of stiff as if cut out of wood; and this amazed and delighted everyone who saw them. "See!" they said, "Giotto makes people look happy or sad, just as real people do!" It seems odd to us that this should have struck anybody as strange; for we are so used to seeing things painted naturally. But remember, it was not so in Giotto's time, and it was he who first started artists to looking at things in the right way.

Giotto also was the first of the Italian painters to make portraits of people; and, as he loved animals, so, whenever he could put into his pictures some sheep or horses or dogs, especially puppies, he did so, and did it well.

It is a pity that much of his work has been lost or destroyed in all the hundreds of years since he lived; but there is one famous thing that remains, and perhaps some day you will go to Italy and have the pleasure of seeing it. This is the campanile (kam-pah-nee'-la), or bell-tower, of Florence, which Giotto designed; for he understood architecture and sculpture as well as painting. Tall and slender it rises, close by the great cathedral, its many-colored marbles glistening in the sunlight; its carved panels and lofty windows all so beautiful that many people consider it the most wonderful tower in all the world. It is called "Giotto's Tower," or, prettier still, "The Shepherd's Tower."

THE WOMAN'S CORNER

THE PRODUCER invites its women readers to send it contributions, ideas, suggestions for this department. Mere man trying to guess at a woman's tastes and preferences is hitting more or less at random. Co-operate with us in making the "Corner" just what you want it to be.

LOVE

[Rocky Mountain News]

Rarely does life project upon the newspaper page a more amazing and enthralling story of marital devotion than that of the killing of William Fitch Tanner and his wife by a railroad train in Chicago.

With his wife's foot so firmly wedged between the rail and a board as to defeat all his efforts to free it, and with certain annihilation bearing down upon him, the devoted husband instantly made his choice.

He had vowed at the altar to cherish his wife until death did them part. But when the crucial moment arrived he defied death to part them. The thought of leaving her alone to her fate was insupportable. So, kneeling and enfolding her in his arms, and assuring her that she should not make the dread journey alone, he passed over with her into the great beyond.

Tragic as such an event is, deeply as it stirs our emotions, the final effect is one of inspiration. Such supreme love is an antidote to the swarming stories of marital infidelity. It strikes like a ray of purifying sunshine through the slime and murk of the divorce court.

It must have sent many a man home with renewed vows to cherish the woman who, as a girl, had given her life and happiness into his hands. Or perhaps it tucked a box of candy or some other token of love under his arm. And it may have turned some man's foot from the alluring but perilous path which would eventually lead him far from his household lares and penates.

Moreover, in an era like this, when mankind seems to have run amuck, when his veneer of civilization is apparently worn so thin that a scratch reveals the beast of prey beneath, it is soothing and uplifting to be assured that the scriptural account of man being made in the image of his Maker is no mere figure of speech—that in the year 1919 is to be found that supreme love and spirit of sacrifice upon which the most glorious legends and poetry of mankind have been erected.

BABIES AND BOREDOM

[The Outlook]

As one studies the tendencies of parentage, both present and past, one observes that always opposing the comradeship possibility has been the ownership theory. Babies are born so small and helpless that it is natural for us to believe we own them. And perhaps we do. But the contention here made is that owning a child, and likewise owning a parent, is no way at all to enjoy him. A chattel cannot, in the nature of things, be companionable. Against the specious reasonableness of the ownership theory should be remembered the plain fact that human character is so skittish and incalculable that utter irresponsibility toward one's offspring seems sometimes to bring as good results as the most conscientious proprietorship. . . .

The real trouble with the ownership theory is that any ownership prevents intimacy. The business of being born entails so much after-awkwardness that saddling the parent-child relationship with property rights in addition is more than companionship can survive. So long as birth continues to be the sole price of admission to this universe, not all the panaceas for moderating the penalties of propagation are so promising as simple forgetting. What vistas of joyous intercourse are instantly opened by the mere suggestion of ceasing to reform our parents and ceasing to bring up our children! Any other suggestions for ameliorating the parental relation are fallacious because, little as they are aware of it, both parents and children are infected by the traditional property principle. Nothing on earth is so burdened with obligation as the owning of anything, and yet solving parental troubles by eugenics implies a sense of responsibility that blackens the future with joylessness. Eugenics makes such a bugbear of a baby that it is impossible ever afterward to be friends with a person who once loomed so portentous in prospect. The roseate slogan "fewer and better babies" is fallacious; the fact is,

the fewer babies people have, the more they worry about them. Perhaps our grandparents, who had no slogan, but whose theory and practice were more and merrier babies, got better results. The theory of fewer and better babies runs the risk of perpetuating the worst evils of ownership; for the fewer children you have, the more you will dominate them, thus making them boresome replicas of yourself. But if you have a dozen, the chances are that some of them, at least, will have opportunity to do their own growing and develop into men and women whom any parent might find entertaining.

As the chief peril of democracy is mediocrity, so the chief peril of parenthood is boredom, and the most promising protection against both evils is letting a child be himself. It is strange that, while there is nothing people dread so much as ennui, there is nothing they set about accomplishing so industriously. The best method by which parents may enjoy their children, or children enjoy their parents, is a genial and irresponsible letting alone.

FACTS TO REMEMBER

Strong soap—

- Hardens and shrinks woolens.
- Yellowes white silks.
- Removes color in colored materials.

Rubbing—

- Wears all fabrics.
- Hardens woolens.
- Gives silk a rough and wavy look.
- Injures color.

Sunlight—

- Bleaches and whitens white cotton and linen material.
- Hardens and shrinks woolens.
- Yellowes white silks and woolens.
- Fades colors.

Temperature—

- Sudden changes harden and shrink woolens.
- Anything hotter than lukewarm injures silk and may change or remove color from any fabric.

HAVE SINKS AND TABLES RIGHT HEIGHT

The height of a woman's kitchen sink and work-tables is an important factor in her well-being and well-doing. She cannot do so much good work, and feel well and strong, with her sink and table so low that she has to bend over to work, or so high that she has to "reach up." As a general rule, 32 to 36 inches from the floor is the proper height for general work-tables, and the bottom of the sink should usually be 30 to 31 inches from the floor, the Home Economics Kitchen of the Department of Agriculture suggests. However, each woman ought to find out for herself the height of the table at which she can work most easily and effi-

ciently, and see that her work-tables and sink are adjusted accordingly. Too long legs (of the sink or table—not of the woman) can be cut off, and those too short can be raised by putting blocks under them.

TO A WEE LADY

[Perrin H. Lowrey in Life]

Lady of the lyric name,
Take the homage of my heart.
I would sing you into fame
If my lips but had the art.
But your baby dimples seem
Far too fair and fine a theme
Even for a poet's dream,
Sweet Camella Mary!

Had I but the skill to tell
Half the truth, Your Ladyship,
I should write a villanelle
To each rosy finger tip.
Then, perhaps, I should compose
Sonnets to your tiny toes
And your cunning little nose,
Sweet Camella Mary!

Could I please you, baby dear,
Singing in a minor key,
You with soul attuned to hear
Heaven's golden poetry,
I should set my heart anew
To the good, the fair, the true,
And be laureate to you,
Sweet Camella Mary!

A SLEEPY-LAND SONG

[Westminster Gazette]

Lady Moon, O Lady Moon,
Here's a little sleepy girlie that must go to
slumber soon!

Won't you glide across the window on your
shining silver wings?
Won't you spare 'twixt noon and noon
Just one tiny, slender minute to this cot
with baby in it,
Though I know you're, oh, so busy with
a hundred million things?

Lady Moon, O Lady Moon,
Let her see the polished buckles on your
gleaming silver shoon;
Let her touch your diamond rings, and the
star dust on your wings;
And should you bend above her—ah! but that
would be a boon!—
And kiss her little rosy lips, how kind, O
Lady Moon!

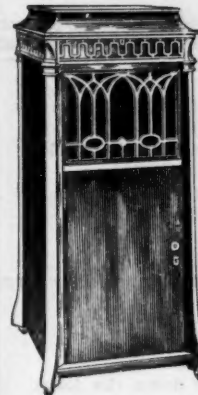
Lady Moon, O Lady Moon,
Tell her just one fairy story that you've
gathered as you go,
From the pine woods or the snow,
From the gaily lighted cities or the stars
above them strewn.
There's a sleepy little girlie that would like
so much to know
Just one little fairy story, Lady Moon!

Lady Moon, O Lady Moon,
It is late; and you're so busy with so many
trysts to keep,
And our little wide-eyed babba—it is time
she went to sleep!
Kiss those cheeks that mock December
With their roses picked in June;
Though she's sleepy she'll remember,
She'll remember, Lady Moon!

A Female Attachment.—"He married money."

"Wasn't there a woman attached to it?"
"Too much attached to it, he found out later."—Current Opinion.

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THE POETS' PEN

AMERICA, LEAD ON!

[Holmes Lowery in Leslie's]

Blow, trumpets! Blow across the world,
With freedom in the blast!
Blow, trumpets, from the mountain-tops!
The morning breaks at last;
The shadows lift along the hills;
The sullen night is gone;
And through the clear light rings the charge:
"America, lead on!"

Our cities stand against the skies
Like radiant prophecies;
Our commerce marches down the foam
Of all the circling seas.
With lightning we have built our dreams
With steel and rock and steam.
Give us grander dream, O God,
And deeds to match the dream!

We carry art and knowledge far;
But vaster things presage.
Truth stands triumphant in the world
And claims her heritage.
New altars rise, new thoughts are born,
New sciences are known;
Man's ancient dream of brotherhood
Shall come into its own.

In this bright morning of the mind
God grows articulate.
Our fathers conquered tyranny,
But we shall conquer hate.
The shadows lift along the hills,
The sullen night is gone.
Stand forth, ye nations of the earth!
America, lead on!

PALIMPSEST

[Edmund K. Broadus in The Review]

I knew him when the wistful dreams of youth
Dwelt in his eyes, and all men said of him:
"His face is as a book where God doth limn
The love of beauty and the search for truth."

I watched his face through all the crowding years
Of struggle and bereavement and mischance;
And saw the heavy hand of circumstance
O'erwriting histories of doubts and fears
And gray discomfitures—until, indeed,
The beauty was quite gone and only sorrow,
Regret for yesterday, dread of tomorrow,
Were written for the casual eye to read.

But I who loved him read the old lines still,
And knew that what I saw all men should see—
Beauty and truth once more writ visibly,
When time should purge what time had written ill.

I waited; but the years went by in vain;
Till now—a moment since, it was, his breath
Fluttered and ended—the quiet hand of death
Has made that fair scroll visible again.

ON GROWING OLD

[John Masefield in Atlantic Monthly]

Be with me, Beauty! For the fire is dying;
My dog and I are old—too old for roving;
Man, whose young passion sets the spindrift flying,
Is soon too lame to march, too cold for loving.

I take the book and gather to the fire,
Turning old yellow leaves. Minute by minute

The clock ticks to my heart; a withered wire
Moves a thin ghost of music in the spinet.
I cannot sail your seas; I cannot wander
Your mountains, nor your downlands, nor your valleys,

Ever again, nor share the battle yonder
Where your young knight the broken squadron rallies;
Only stay quiet, while my mind remembers
The beauty of fire from the beauty of embers.

Beauty, have pity! For the young have power,
The rich their wealth, the beautiful their grace,

Summer of man its fruit-time and its flower,
Spring-time of man all April in a face.
Only, as in the jostling in the Strand,
Where the mob thrusts, or loiters, or is loud,

The beggar with the saucer in his hand
Asks only a penny from the passing crowd,
So, from this glittering world with all its fashion,
Its fire and play of men, its stir, its march,
Let me have wisdom, Beauty—wisdom and passion,

Bread to the soul, rain where the summers parch.
Give me but these, and, though the darkness close,
Even the night will blossom as the rose.

DEPARTURE

[Edna St. Vincent Millay in Ainslee's]

It's little I care what path I take,
And where it leads it's little I care;
But out of this house, lest my heart break,
I must go, and off somewhere!

It's little I know what's in my heart,
What's in my mind it's little I know;
But there's that in me must up and start,
And it's little I care where my feet go!
I wish I could walk for a day and a night,
And find me at dawn in a desolate place,
With never the rut of a road in sight,
Or the roof of a house, or the eyes of a face.

I wish I could walk till my blood should spout,
And drop me, never to stir again,
On a shore that is wide: for the tide is out,
And the weedy rocks are bare to the rain.
But dump or dock, where the path I take
Brings up, it's little enough I care;
And it's little I'd mind the fuss they'll make,
Huddled dead in a ditch somewhere.

"Is something the matter, dear," she said,
"That you sit at your work so silently?"
"No, mother, no—'twas a knot in my thread.
There goes the kettle—I'll make the tea."

THE GROOVE

[Roderic Quinn in Sydney Bulletin]

Though restless souls there be who plan
And plot through all their days,
I have in mind a little man
Of quiet-going ways.

While others roam the world, and range
The lands from sea to sea,
Upon the tides of chance and change
His course runs evenly.

Though kings and empires tumble down,
Though war and famine blight,
He takes his morning way to town,
His homeward way at night.

Through happy times, and times made red
By blood and blood-red flame,
For more than forty years, 'tis said,
His path has been the same.

Because he walks so often there
Each rut and stone he knows;
Across the park and through the square
And down the street it goes.

As though tired out with stress of feet,
It wanders, patched and worn;
In winter's cold and summer's heat
He treads it night and morn.

While Time speeds on with ne'er a stop
He plods to toil and back;
'Twixt shop and house, and house and shop,
It is the linking track.

I sometimes think, at board or bed,
That track, in time, will prove
Beneath his never-ceasing tread
A deep, all-hiding groove.

Deep down, where mold and cobwebs lurk,
He twice a day shall roam—
A shadow going forth to work,
A shadow stumbling home.

All silent as the wainscot mouse
That scents its feline foe,
'Twixt house and shop, and shop and house,
He day and night shall go.

Nor shall he in the lists of strife
His strength and spirit prove,
But, evermore, live out his life
Within his self-made groove.

For there, the world and all shut out,
A dim shape underneath,
The man I write these lines about
Shall think and move and breathe.

And while o'er many a field the lark
Drops music, sweet and clear,
A dim shape, shambling through the dark,
He shall not see or hear.

Nor shall he mark the planets swim
Through azure deeps afar;
For sun and star are not for him
Who seeks not sun and star.

CERTAINTIES

[Margaret Widdemer in Century]

Whether you dwell by hut or throne,
Whether your feet tread silk or grass,
Comes the one lad you shall never own,
Or the one lass.

Whether you've pence to spend, or gold,
Whether you've toil or time to weep,
Comes the one pain that may never be told
And may never sleep.

Whether you weep or mock in pride,
Whether you tell or still deny,
Comes the one scar that your heart must hide
Till the day you die.



Service that is cheap because everybody gets it

At nearly every turn we depend on some one to furnish us with a necessity.

Take electricity for instance: It is a low priced service because many homes co-operate in buying from a big plant.

Water is pumped into your house so cheaply by a waterworks supplying thousands of people that you could not afford to build your own system.

We see bakeries selling bread cheaper than the housewife can make it because they turn out so many loaves.

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THE SPICE BOX.

SONG OF A HUMBLE CITIZEN

[Elias Lieberman in New York Times]

With temples throbbing and hot,
With temper ruffled and red,
A citizen sat in his rent-raised flat,
Wearily propping his head.
"I'm a man of peace," he moaned,
As he fingered the grocer's bill;
"Yet self-control is leaving my soul,
And I'm nursing a longing to kill!"

It's strike, strike, strike,
From dawn to evening glow;
It's strike, strike, strike,
Wherever I chance to go.
The slogan, wherever I pass,
In our land of do-as-you-like,
Is: "Get to a man as much as you can,
Then ask for more—and strike!"

It's strike, strike, strike,
From actor to engineer;
And strike, strike, strike,
For cheese or decimal beer.
I'm a lover of justice and peace;
But, whoever may happen to win,
I stand no show; what I'd like to know
Is: Where do I come in?

It's strike, strike, strike,
From window-cleaner to clerk;
And strike, strike, strike,
With never a thought of work.
I'm strong for order and law,
But I have nothing to say;
For first and last I am lashed to the mast;
Whoever may win, I pay.

With temples throbbing and hot,
With temper ragged and red,
A citizen sat in his rent-raised flat,
Wearily propping his head.
"I'm a man of peace," he moaned;
"But all this makes me sick.
Upon my soul, I've lost control;
I'm turning Bolshevik."

THE NEW DRINKING SONG

[Walter Pulitzer in Judge]

Pring me, boys, a lusty jorum,
Filtered from the local main;
Let us drink and drown decorum;
Let us sing and banish pain.
Fill the cup, and every sip'll
Bid the cares of being go.
Tell us, who can find a tipple
To compare with H₂O?

Foreign people squander life on
Spanish grape or British hop,
Mountain dew with grassy syphon,
Juniper with ginger pop.
Watch them—swollen, pale, disheveled;
Slam the door and see them jump!
Better far that they had revealed
On the boiled and filtered pump.

Give us Yankees full libation
From the constant town supply,
Void of consequent inflation,
Achy head and rheumy eye!
Keep the pot a-bolling, laddle!
Let the jolly filter flow!
Foreigners can use the caddy—
We shall stick to H₂O!

Mother's Art.—It was in the drawing-class at the school.

"Sargent was a great artist," said the teacher. "With one stroke he could change a smiling face into a sorrowful one."

"That ain't nothin'," piped up Johnny. "Me mother does that to me lots of times."—Chicago News.

First Aid.—In the scrimmage the little man had been knocked down and trampled on.

"Stand back, there!" shouted the benevolent stranger. "Give him air, and hurry up with the brandy."

"Never mind about the air," murmured the patient in a faint voice.—Argonaut.

His Blessing.—A sergeant was so much given to using bad language on the parade-ground that some of the men complained, and the C. O. interviewed him, and told him not to let it happen again.

The following morning the sergeant was in charge of a very ragged squad, and after keeping silence for a considerable time, he eventually burst out with:

"Bless you, my pretty dears! You know what I mean."—Tit-Bits.

At the Seaside Resort.—"Hear the moaning of the tide, John!"

"That's not the tide. It's the hotel guests paying their bills."—Life.

Good Beginning.—VISITOR — "What makes you think that William will grow up to be a great doctor?"

FOND MOTHER—"While playing doctor with his little playmates, he said: 'Gentlemen, before we begin to operate, you hold the patient's hands and feet. I'll get the three cents out of this right-hand pocket.'"—Detroit News.

Playing Safe.—"Rastus, how is it you have given up going to church?" asked Pastor Brown.


"Well, sah," replied Rastus, "it's dis way. I likes to take an active part, an' I used to pass de collection basket, but dey's give de job to Brothah Green, who jest returned from Ovah Thai-ah."

"In recognition of his heroic service, I suppose?"


"No, sah, I reckon he got dat job in reco'nition o' his having lost one o' his hands."—Argonaut.

Dad's View.—THE PASTOR—"So God has sent you two more little brothers, Dolly?"



DOLLY (brightly)—"Yes, and he knows where the money's coming from. I heard daddy say so."—Tit-Bits.



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Daddy's Co-operation Needed.—Bobbie, five years old, whose father has been a year and a half in France, has an abnormally developed wishbone. When he has expressed his desire for this, that, or the other, his mother has been in the habit of putting him off by saying: "You must wait till daddy gets home." One day his wisher was working overtime. "I want a ball," said he, "and a cat, and a dog, and a little baby sister—but I s'pose I'll have to wait till daddy gets home."—Chicago Tribune.

Awaiting His Turn.—The Scotch minister rose and cleared his throat, but remained silent, while the congregation awaited the sermon in puzzled expectancy. At last he spoke:

"There's a laddie awa' there in the gallery a-kissin' a lassie," he said. "When he's done, ah'll begin."

The Genus Trampus.—"What do you work at, my poor man?"

"Only at intervals, lady."—Boston Transcript.

Making Ends Meet.—"To increase taxes is like feeding a dog on its own tail," observes the London Mail. And yet, esteemed contemporary, that makes both ends meet—which is all that we can hope to do.—Chicago Tribune.